

OVERSEAS NEWS

Syrians shoot down another Israeli 'drone'

BY ANTHONY McDermott in Damascus and Ihsan Hijazi in Beirut

THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN crisis deepened yesterday when another Israeli reconnaissance aircraft was shot down by a Syrian anti-aircraft missile over the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon.

The destruction of the pilotless drone, admitted in Jerusalem, was denounced by Israeli officials as justifying the new demand by Mr. Menahem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, that Syria remove missiles from its side of the border with Lebanon, as well as from the Bekaa Valley.

Officials added, however, that Mr. Begin was only demanding the removal of missiles installed on the Syrian border since the start of the crisis.

In Damascus, the authorities appear to be taking a somewhat tougher stance on the future of the peace-seeking mission of Mr. Philip Habib, the U.S. special envoy who has been seeking to avert a conflict.

Syrian officials and Press yesterday emphasised that Mr. Habib is welcome to return from Beirut to Damascus. But his visit would be pointless unless

he comes up with new proposals, they said, rather than a repetition of "Israeli demands that are outside any logic" — as President Hafez Al Assad of Syria has described them.

In Beirut, the Syrians are reported to have increased their military strength by bringing additional reinforcements and long-range artillery into the Bekaa Valley.

According to Arab diplomats, the next round of talks between Syria and Mr. Habib would depend on results of the emergency meeting by Arab Foreign Ministers, which opened in Tunis yesterday.

Saudi Arabia and other Arab Governments are reported to feel that resolving the problem in Lebanon could lead to ending the missile crisis.

An Arab plan, which would provide Syria with support in the event of a showdown with Israel, may at the same time propose security arrangements for ending the siege around the Christian town of Zahle, in the Bekaa Valley, and checking the fighting on the Sanin Heights which overlook the valley.

Brezhnev urges talks

BY OUR MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT

THE LEADER of the Soviet Union, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, has called for an international conference to calm the Middle East situation before "one rash step" drags the entire region into war.

Mr. Brezhnev made his appeal yesterday in a speech notable for its lack of overt rancour towards either Israel or the Western powers.

But he linked his call for international talks to the six-month-old Kremlin plan for a conference on security in the Gulf region and Afghanistan — an idea spurned by the West and the countries of the area not already in the Soviet orbit.

Speaking in Tbilisi, capital of

Soviet Georgia, Mr. Brezhnev noted that the Soviet people could not ignore the "cruel, tragic and dangerous" events in the Middle East, so close to their borders.

"Can one be left indifferent to the fate of Lebanon, which is literally bleeding white because it is torn by the Israeli military?" he asked.

"One rash step and a military confrontation may engulf the entire region of the Middle East, and it is hard to tell how far the sparks of this fire will fly."

"The remedy was an international conference, which offers a good chance for working collectively, to stabilise the situation."

THE ABU DHABI SUMMIT

Gulf states to seek unity on security

BY ROGER MATTHEWS IN ABU DHABI

SIX GULF countries with a combined oil production of about 14m barrels a day aim to lay the foundations for closer security and economic co-operation during a two-day summit meeting which opens in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

The main spur to establishing the Gulf Co-operation Council has been the threat of growing instability in the region and the danger that it will become the focus of super-power confrontation.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman have been alarmed in the past two years by the risk of Iran attempting to spread its revolutionary fervour. They have also been deeply concerned that fighting between Iraq and Iran could spill over into their countries or endanger oil supplies passing through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

These anxieties have been heightened among the conservative Arab oil-producers by the desire of the U.S. Reagan Administration to establish a greater American military presence in the Gulf, in order to check what Washington sees as

growing Soviet encroachment in the region.

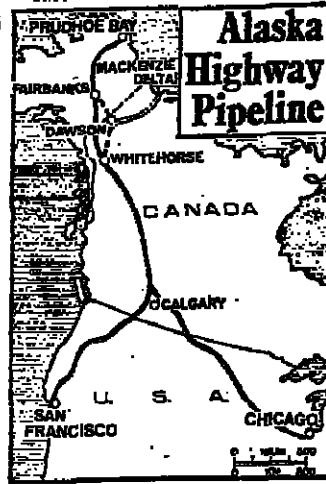
With the exception of Oman, which is co-operating militarily with the U.S., the other five states are all adamantly opposed to a permanent American presence and wish to emphasise their determination to provide their own security.

Although previous attempts at Arab unity have invariably foundered because of individual rivalries, the six countries meeting in Abu Dhabi next week have enough in common to suggest they may achieve marginally more success.

They have similar political systems, are militarily weak and all have experienced in varying degrees the development problems stemming from the last seven years of massive oil revenue increases.

The heads of state will then approve the statutes of the council which were drafted in March and are expected to agree on key appointments.

Although no major announcements are anticipated, senior officials stress that the approval of the Gulf council will be the first significant step towards greater unity of action by Arab Gulf states



Go-ahead for Alaska pipeline funding

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A POLICY-SWITCH in Washington has cleared the way for financing the 4,800-mile pipeline intended to carry natural gas from Prudhoe Bay in Alaska across western Canada to the main markets in the U.S.

The Reagan Administration has dropped objections previously upheld in Washington to the gas-producing companies taking equity positions in the U.S. sections of the line.

It is understood that the producing companies will

account for 30 per cent of the equity, leaving the balance to the sponsoring transmission companies.

With that matter out of the way, the partners are in a position to negotiate finance with the banks. The cost of the pipeline, including the Canadian section, is now estimated at about \$25bn (\$12.5bn).

Mr. Bud Olson, Canadian Minister of Economic Development, told the Canadian Senate yesterday that he had received

official word of the agreement from Mr. John MacMillan, president of Northwest Alaskan Pipeline, the leader of the consortium sponsoring the U.S. sections of the line.

The Canadian section of the line is sponsored by Foothill Pipelines and West Coast Transmission. Construction of the southern section has already begun.

It is understood that the U.S. has agreed to a Canadian

demand that, once the Canadian section is complete, any costs arising from an interruption of supplies from Alaska shall be passed on to U.S. consumers.

Though it is the primary purpose of the Alaska Highway Pipeline to transport gas from Alaska, once it has been built it will become relatively easy to attach spur lines for gas already found in the Mackenzie delta, on the Canadian Arctic coast, and for gas in the Beaufort Sea.

Warrant out for top Italy mason

By Rupert Cornwell in Rome

ROME MAGISTRATES last night issued a warrant for the arrest of Sig. Licio Gelli, Grand Master of the P-2 Freemasons lodge, on charges of "political and military espionage."

Sig. Gelli, who is believed to have gone into hiding abroad, is at the centre of the growing storm over the activities of the ultra-secret P-2, alleged to have been a clandestine centre of political power in Italy.

This week the names of 963 presumed members of the lodge were made public. They include two Cabinet Ministers, 35 MR. civil servants, industrialists and 169 senior military officers and secret service heads.

The P-2 affair is causing increasingly severe difficulties for the seven-month-old Government of Sig. Arnaldo Forlani the Prime Minister. Its future will be decided at a meeting next week of heads of the four parties in the coalition.

Tension increased last night with the publication of more documents found at the lodge's Arezzo headquarters, relating to the ENI/Saudi Arabia oil contract of 1979.

These purport to show that of the \$115m (\$55.5m) commission on the subsequently cancelled deal, part went to Saudi Arabian figures, while more than half was placed in a Luxembourg holding company — said to have been at the disposal of certain top Italian politicians.

The Government, however, is doing its best not to be panicked. Yesterday Sig. Lello Lagorio, the Defence Minister, said there would be no summary dismissal of the military figures whose names featured on the list of supposed P-2 members.

Spanish trials

SIX GENERALS and 17 civil guards now in prison for alleged involvement in the attempted coup in Spain in February, are to be brought to trial and sentenced in two months' time, Spain's Minister of Defence, Sr. Alberto Oliart, has announced, our Madrid correspondent writes.

Poll promises

DR GARRET FITZGERALD, leader of Ireland's main opposition party, Fine Gael, promised tax cuts, an 18 month anti-inflation programme, food subsidies and a scheme to phase out Ireland's balance of payments deficit over four years in his election manifesto, Stewart Dalby writes from Dublin. Voting is on June 11.

Russian surveys

RUSSIAN SHIPS have been conducting seismic surveys in search of oil and gas off the seabed in a part of the Barents Sea claimed by both Norway and Russia, a Norwegian Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed yesterday — Fay Gjester reports from Oslo.

French 'determined to defend the franc'

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

FRANCE'S INCOMING Socialist Administration stressed in announcing its tough new exchange control measures that it was determined to defend the current exchange rate of the franc.

Speculation against the franc, it said, "neither reflected the fundamental economic situation nor the policy the Government intended to follow."

The five new regulations are: 1—A limitation of one month, compared with the present two, on forward currency buying by importers. For commodity dealers, who had been able to buy ahead indefinitely, a new three-month limit has been established. This rule is designed to stop speculation against the franc in the forward market.

2—A reduction to two days against eight in the time allowed to importers to hold foreign currency for cash deals.

3—A requirement for exporters to move out of the foreign currency received in settlement within one month of the dispatch of goods, against six months after the arrival. Again, this prevents French companies holding foreign currency for

speculative purposes.

4—The establishment of a dollar-premium type system (called a devise-titre) for French residents buying stock overseas.

In effect, this only allows new stock to be bought, if it is balanced by overseas sales, thus automatically creating a premium on finance for such investments.

Dealers reckoned that available dollars for these transactions were trading at a 10 per cent premium yesterday.

5—Overseas industrial and commercial investments will have to be officially authorised if higher than FFfr 1m (£90,000). This compares with the present authorisation level of FFfr 5m.

The basis of these tighter regulations is to stop the extensive protective buying against the franc by French importers, exporters and stock market investors.

But industry, which has been forced to defend itself in the past few weeks, points out that the regulations could be seriously damaging to trade if maintained for any length of time.

Polish internal security 'under serious threat'

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI IN WARSAW

POLAND'S INTERNAL security is "seriously threatened" — among other factors — by those working to turn back the clock on reforms taking place in the country, according to the head of the security service here.

The warning, by General Adam Krzysztowski, Deputy Interior Minister, came at a party conference in Gdansk, and was reported by the daily Dziennik Baltycki there.

"We have to be aware that there are social forces in the country which are opposed to the renewal process, opposed to the reintroduction of the norms of socialist justice which are accepted by the overwhelming majority of the population," General Krzysztowski said.

The remark shows that the Interior Ministry leadership, which in the public eye is identified with hard-line policies, is keen to be seen as supporting the moderate line pursued since last summer by

Mr. Stanislaw Kania, the party leader.

In the past, Interior Ministry officials have said they support "the renewal process," but this is the first time they have mentioned the subject of the opponents of reform.

Our Moscow correspondent adds: The Soviet news agency Tass said yesterday that "revisionist forces" within the Polish Communist Party were working together with anti-socialist elements of the Solidarity trade union and dissident groups in a "united front" against the Polish United Workers (Communist) Party.

Japan denies nuclear weapons report

BY CHARLES SMITH, FAR EAST EDITOR IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S foreign ministry yesterday declined to believe reports that a former senior official at the U.S. State Department had said that nuclear weapons were stored in a Japanese port in 1961.

According to the reports, Mr. Alexis Johnson, Ambassador to Japan in the mid-1960s said that a U.S. navy landing ship containing nuclear arms had been moored at Iwakuni in Western Japan during spring 1961.

Mr. Johnson's statement, if

true, would mean that the U.S. had breached the terms of the U.S.-Japan agreement on the introduction of nuclear weapons on to Japanese territory — in the sense in which the agreement has commonly been understood in Japan.

The agreement formed part of the revised Japan-U.S. security pact and was signed in 1960. Under it, the U.S. is obliged to ask for Japanese permission to introduce nuclear weapons on to Japanese territory.

Japan has consistently taken the view that the term "introduce" covers the presence of nuclear weapons on U.S. vessels in Japanese ports as well as their presence on Japanese soil.

It is Japanese policy not to permit such introduction and Japan claims that the U.S. has never asked permission to bring in weapons on this basis. Reports that U.S. ships visiting Japanese ports are in fact equipped with nuclear weapons have been dismissed by Japanese officials as impossible.

given the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Suzuki was questioned by representatives of all the major opposition parties in the Diet yesterday on the Johnson statement. But he took refuge in a simple repetition of his determination not to allow nuclear weapons into Japan.

Mr. Sunao Sonoda, his Foreign Minister, denied any difference of interpretation between Japan and the U.S. of the crucial word "introduce."

Plea on monetary policies by IMF

By David Marsh in Libreville

AS THE new French Government yesterday pushed up Paris interest rates to over 20 per cent, the meeting of policy-making interim committee of the International Monetary Fund wound up in Libreville, Gabon, with a welter of official statements urging governments to put less reliance on monetary policies to bring down inflation.

The contrast between the real world and the cocooned atmosphere of international monetary gatherings has never been more amply demonstrated than during this meeting between rich and poor countries at the equator.

In a communique issued on Thursday night at the end of the meeting, Government officials and central bankers from around the world declared their "conviction" that beating inflation should continue to take highest priority.

Otherwise, they were unanimous only in their weary conclusion that there are no easy ways out of the world economic malaise.

The French, West Germans and other countries whose currencies have been hit by the soaring dollar asked for no assurances from the American delegation that their troubles would soon be over and they got none.

Neither did the developing countries groaning under the weight of increasing interest rates on their burgeoning foreign debts.

Despite the atmosphere of forced moderation which pervaded the meeting, deep divisions remained at the end of the Third World proposals for more IMF lending and a more sympathetic approach from industrialised countries on aid.

The U.S. and Britain in particular, oppose the developing nations' requests for a new injection of liquidity of SDR 12bn each year through a fresh distribution of the Fund's composite reserve currency, the Special Drawing Right.

The communique shared some of the air of unreality of the \$400m (£194m) conference centre itself.

In air-conditioned aloofness from the rest of Africa, this squat but sumptuously appointed hexagon of glass and concrete nestles amid its steamy surroundings like a Steven Spielberg spaceship.

Like visitors from another world, which many industrialised countries' country delegates clearly felt they were Ministers solemnly pressed concern about sluggish growth, worldwide inflation, rising unemployment and huge payments imbalances.

With particular reference to the Americans, they also complained about fluctuating interest rates. But the Ministers and their officials in charge of economic policies of every country of the world, in almost every country of the non-Communist world, made clear that there was precious little they could do about it.

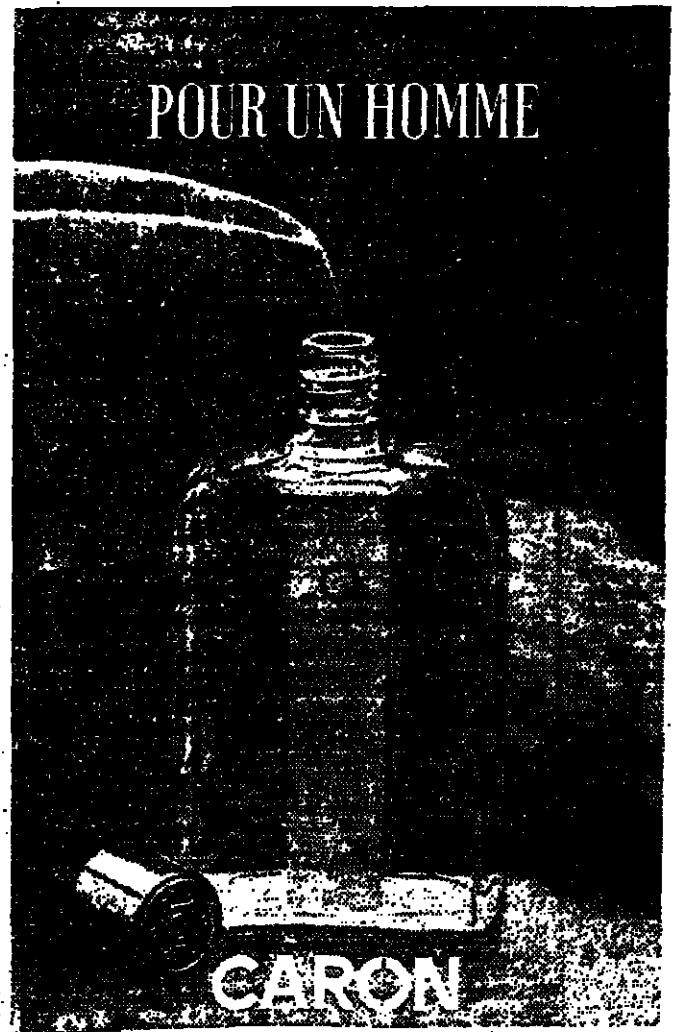
These days, external events — Middle East oil politics and the gyrations of the U.S. money supply — are the main influences on the world's currency and credit markets. Reduced to relative impotence, U.S. and European delegates to this conference openly question whether lavish six monthly meetings of the interim committee are worth all the bother.

The interim committee voiced fulsome praise for the work of the Fund in rapidly expanding loans to developing countries this year and setting up a new facility to aid poor countries hit by crop failures or high world food prices.

Deals clinched between the IMF and Saudi Arabia and 13 industrialised countries during the past few weeks, have given the Fund a much more comfortable liquidity position from which to expand lending. IMF officials have met delegates from a number of oil-exporting and other developing countries to seek further allocation of funds.

In a novel way of assisting the flow of money around the world, the IMF is asking a range of developing nations with large reserves — including big debtors like Brazil — to "park" spare money with it for short intervals so that the cash can be lent on to other Third World countries. Elsewhere the communique was notable in its blandness: "At the insistence of countries like the U.S. and Britain, which are cutting aid budgets, the interim committee statement urged aid flows to be enlarged but said they should be financed only by 'countries in a position to do so'."

FINANCIAL TIMES, published daily except Sundays and holidays. U.S. subscription rates \$380.00 per annum. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y., and at additional mailing centres.



Tax breaks unlock Australia's film talent

BY COLIN CHAPMAN IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S fast growing number of film producers, directors, writers and cameramen, not to mention assorted bank managers and accountants, will heave a mighty sigh of relief next week when the Federal Government introduces legislation to allow tax concessions for the film industry.

The bill will unleash millions of dollars salted away in trust accounts by investors waiting for the green light. Up to 70 features films, some of them involving well-known stars and directors, may now go ahead.

The tax concessions for film-makers are the result of an election promise made by Mr. Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, who is generally a Philistine in his attitude to arts subsidies and whose "razor gang" of Cabinet Ministers has just cut a swathe through public spending.

To give away up to \$A30m (£17m) of taxpayers' money for film-making may seem curious at a time when Australians are being asked to bear more of the cost of health care and higher education. But Canberra is not unaware of the new image recent international film successes have brought Australia.



Award-winner Judy Davis in My Brilliant Career

Although opinions differ as to which film first put the Australian industry on the map, 1974 was the year when Hollywood and other film-making centres first noticed that productions down-under were both cheap and good. Pete Weir's *Picnic at Hanging Rock* cost only \$A454,000 to make, and returned a profit of more than \$A1m.

Cheaper Australian films which made a profit were the adventures of Barry McKenzie, *Alvin Purple*, *The Libido*, *The*

benefit. Another 40 are in the pipeline awaiting Mr. Wilson's return from holiday.

Mr. Wilson has already outlined the criteria for approval. The film must be for public showing and the investment funds must be Australian, though there is nothing to stop companies raising capital overseas.

Mr. Wilson also concerns himself with the script, the cast, the locations and beneficial ownership of copyright. The use of overseas actors and technicians is accepted.

The major tax concessions are a 150 per cent tax deduction on capital expenditure and a 50 per cent tax exemption on returns from the film.

This means that a high-income earner whose marginal tax rate is 60 per cent will find films a very attractive investment. Out of an income of say \$A120,000 he could invest \$A50,000 in a film. The 150 per cent tax deduction means he can then cut \$A75,000 from his taxable income, which, at the marginal rate of 60 per cent, means he has reduced his tax bill by \$A45,000. So his net outlay on the film is a mere \$A5,000. This means that he will break-even when his share of box-office returns reaches

\$A55,000, and the next \$A20,000 after that will be tax free.

A number of banks, including Grindlays, and firms of solicitors and accountants have already started assembling film projects and funds. Two broking houses have published circulars advising clients on the best way to go about investment.

Inevitably, Australia's media barons have got into the act of forming embryo film companies. One of the most formidable could be the partnership between Mr. Rupert Murdoch and Mr. Robert Stigwood, the impresario, in R and R Films.

R and R has just completed its first film, *Gallipoli*, a study of the relationship between two young Australians sent to fight in the Dardanelles in World War I.

Shot in Egypt and South Australia it is, by all accounts, another potential award-winner. "I think we will be successful because our films are about integrity," says Mr. Ben Cannon, the company's general manager. "Most of the stuff from Hollywood is exploitation of horror or out-and-out entertainment like *Star Wars*, and our costs, though rising, are much lower than Hollywood's."

UK NEWS

Banks told that tax cut device may be outlawed

By David Freud

THE BANK of England has warned UK banks against cutting their tax bills by supplying leasing finance to fund projects in the U.S.

In a letter to the Equipment Leasing Association, which represents most lessors, the Bank says that such activity might tempt the Government to enact blocking legislation.

Financing of this nature, called a "double-dip" deal, has been expanding rapidly in recent months. It operates by taking advantage of inconsistencies between UK and U.S. tax laws on leased assets.

A British bank can buy an asset from anywhere in the world, claiming a 25 per cent capital allowance against its tax bill and thereby reducing the rental charge. If the lessee is an American company, it can also claim to be the owner of the asset under U.S. law and obtain a further tax allowance.

The effect on a deal in which U.S. equipment is leased to a U.S. company, funnelled through a UK bank, is to reduce the effective interest charge by 2 percentage points and more.

One of the UK banks active in the field is believed to be Barclays. Estimates put the total value of double dip deals at £100m in the last six months, with the UK exchequer about £10m in lost taxation.

The Bank of England sent a letter to the leasing association last week, following a request from the association for its assistance.

Last night Mr. Leslie, chairman of the association, said: "The bank's action doesn't help us. It has been written, and is within the law."

Special steels sector prospects to be studied

By Alan Pike

AN INDEPENDENT investigation is to be conducted into the problems and prospects of the British special steels industry, which is suffering from the recession and increased import penetration.

The inquiry will be conducted by Prof. Sir Frederick Warner, a chemical and mechanical engineer and president of the British Standards Institution.

The industry—which produces material for high technology applications—is almost entirely in the private sector. The decision arose from discussions between the steel companies, their banks and the Bank of England.

Sir Frederick's terms of reference are to inquire into the prospects for the special steels sector in the light of its current problems and to consider how these might best be resolved.

Considerable alarm has been expressed by special steel producers about their future. A report produced at the end of last year on the state of the industry in Sheffield and Rotherham, where much of it is based, warned the Government that the survival of the industry was in question.

Slater charitable trust wins £2m exemption ruling

By Raymond Hughes

A CHARITY set up by Mr. Jim Slater and his wife has defeated an attempt by the Inland Revenue to remove part of its tax exemption.

The Court of Appeal dismissed a Revenue appeal against a finding by tax commissioners in favour of the Helen Slater Charitable Trust, which was upheld by the High Court in 1979.

The Revenue had argued that money paid by the Trust to another Slater charity, the Slater Foundation, which the latter did not distribute for charitable purposes, was not exempt from tax.

The case concerned nearly £600,000 paid by the trust to the foundation between 1973 and 1975.

Lord Justice Oliver said that the only question was whether the money had been "applied" by the trust for charitable purposes under section 360(1) of the 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes Act.

The Revenue argued that the money was not applied until

South Glamorgan levies extra rate

By Robin Pauley and Robin Reeves

SOUTH GLAMORGAN County Council yesterday announced a supplementary rate of 6p in the pound—the first in what could turn out to be an avalanche of supplementary rates in England and Wales this year.

The new rate will mean an extra £10.17 on the average domestic rate bill in the county. But if Mr. Nicholas Edwards, Welsh Secretary, decides to enforce the hard line being adopted by the Cabinet, ratepayers in some parts of South Glamorgan could face two more supplementary rate bills before the year is out.

Yesterday's announcement of

an extra rate is the result of the change of political control in South Glamorgan, which was the only Conservative-controlled county in Wales until Labour won it in the local elections earlier this month.

Mr. Robert Morgan, the council's new Labour leader, said the extra rate would produce £3m, which would be used to save 135 teaching jobs, maintain the home help service and buy more equipment and books for schools.

Mr. Morgan said the previous Conservative administration had deliberately kept down rates in an attempt to win the election regardless of the effect on ser-

vices. It had also planned to take £4.5m from balances, out of a total of only £5m, in spite of the Treasurer's advice that not more than £3m should be taken.

But this shortage of balances is a bad sign for South Glamorgan's ratepayers. The Government wants all local authorities in England and Wales to cut their spending plans for 1981-82 to a level which will leave them 5.6 per cent below their actual spending level in 1978-79.

South Glamorgan is £4m over its target, according to its budget, an overshoot of about

3.9 per cent. Balances are already largely depleted, so if services are not to be cut the county will have to levy another supplementary rate. The Government is threatening to withhold grants equivalent to the amount of the overspend. To recover the £4m potential loss another 8p in the pound—another £13.50 on the average domestic bill—will be needed.

To make matters worse both district councils in South Glamorgan are overspent. Cardiff City is 1.1 per cent, £144,000, over target and Vale of Glamorgan is 4.1 per cent, £1.45m, over its target.

second shipment of cars to the U.S. has been delayed. The first 395 arrived last week.

The latest guarantee represents the third financial top-up for De Lorean since the original £56.3m package was agreed between De Lorean and the then-Labour Government in 1978 and a further £10m in February this year.

The company is currently preparing to make a stock offer to raise at least £30m in the U.S. to finance its planned saloon car.

employees are Catholic, and it is unlikely that they would have been able to resist pressures for absenteeism during the past three weeks in which four longer strikers have died.

Catholic shops and other businesses have also come under pressure to close temporarily after the strikers' deaths and funerals.

Mr. Butler said in a written answer in the Commons yesterday that the disturbance had hit De Lorean's productivity and manning levels and the

De Lorean to get new £7m loan guarantee

By John Griffiths

THE GOVERNMENT is to guarantee a further £7m in bank loans to De Lorean, the Belfast sports car company which it has backed with £70.36m in grants and loans.

Mr. Adam Butler, the Minister responsible for industry in Northern Ireland, said yesterday the time-limited guarantee was to help De Lorean over cash flow problems caused by a petrol bomb attack on the plant on May 5.

No damage was caused to plant or equipment but tem-

porary buildings containing employment records were destroyed and 60 employees had to be relocated.

Immediately after the attack, company executives indicated that production—then running at about 150 cars a week, worth about £31m at retail prices—was being maintained.

The plant borders the Catholic estate of Twinbrook, home of Mr. Bobby Sands, the first of the recent IRA hunger strikers to die. A substantial number of De Lorean's 1,500

employees are Catholic, and it is unlikely that they would have been able to resist pressures for absenteeism during the past three weeks in which four longer strikers have died.

Catholic shops and other businesses have also come under pressure to close temporarily after the strikers' deaths and funerals.

Mr. Butler said in a written answer in the Commons yesterday that the disturbance had hit De Lorean's productivity and manning levels and the

Plea for widening of rented housing sector

By Elinor Goodman

EXTENDING THE system of assured tenancies to help open up the market for private rented accommodation was suggested yesterday by Mr. Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales.

His call was the first public indication of discussions going on inside the Government on how to encourage private letting. He came close to conceding that Government moves made so far in this field had made little impact.

He said that over the next few years ways would be found to boost private lettings while keeping adequate safeguards for existing tenants. The obvious next move would be to extend the system of assured tenancies to existing properties not at present being let.

Assured tenancies were introduced in the 1980 Housing Act to allow landlords to charge market rent—as opposed to fair rent laid down in the Rent Act—for properties specially

built for letting.

Mr. Edwards said his plan might bring on to the market a whole new range of properties now either vacant or under-occupied.

He added, "any suggestion that we remove the present system of controls at once provokes a scare campaign by the Labour Party."

For this reason, it was essential that any new system must be "so self-evidently fair and secure" that even Labour would be ashamed into abandoning its usual ploy of promising to overturn any legislation.

Mortgage cut

WILLIAMS and Glyn's has reduced to 13½ per cent (14.1 per cent annual rate) the interest payable on mortgages for house purchase. The bank will lend up to 95 per cent of the value of the property.

Benn says U.S. might try to wreck Labour Britain

By Elinor Goodman, Lobby Correspondent

MR. TONY BENN tried to persuade his Shadow Cabinet colleagues further yesterday that an attack on the U.S. Government which was committed to implementing in government, conference policies, which have yet to get into any Labour manifesto.

He was speaking to a meeting of the American Democratic Socialist Organising Committee in Philadelphia.

In Britain, he said, the Labour Party was "rediscovering its historical role, radicalising and democratising itself and winning back public support."

America needed to revive her own socialist traditions, not least because the world community needed a strong socialist leadership to emerge from America.

He said that the next Labour Government would close all nuclear bases in Britain, including American ones, and adopt a non-nuclear defence strategy.

Benn's Bandwagon, Page 15

Leader, Mr. Benn repeated his attack on the last Labour Government, and gave the impression that Labour was already committed to implementing in government, conference policies, which have yet to get into any Labour manifesto.

He was speaking to a meeting of the American Democratic Socialist Organising Committee in Philadelphia.

In Britain, he said, the Labour Party was "rediscovering its historical role, radicalising and democratising itself and winning back public support."

America needed to revive her own socialist traditions, not least because the world community needed a strong socialist leadership to emerge from America.

He said that the next Labour Government would close all nuclear bases in Britain, including American ones, and adopt a non-nuclear defence strategy.

Benn's Bandwagon, Page 15

Connaught Latham 'dying' in hands of receiver

By Raymond Hughes, Law Courts Correspondent

Connaught Latham, the licensed securities dealer, complained to the High Court yesterday that its business was "dying a very swift death" in the hands of the Official Receiver.

The Official Receiver was appointed provisional liquidator of the company following the presentation by the Department of Trade in April of a petition for the compulsory winding-up of Connaught Latham on "just and equitable" grounds.

Yesterday the company asked the court to discharge the Official Receiver and authorise the company to operate its bank account in the ordinary course of business.

The applications, which the Department of Trade opposed, was adjourned until June 9 to enable the Department to put in evidence.

Mr. Hedley Martin, for Connaught Latham, said that it had been trading profitably when the Official Receiver walked in

and took possession of its papers, to the complete exclusion of the directors. Since then the company had not traded and would die if the orders it sought were not granted.

Mr. Philip Heslop, for the department, said that one part of Connaught Latham's business involved buying and selling shares on behalf of clients. The complaint made against it was that there was no proper division and safeguarding of clients' assets as opposed to company

money.

The company's evidence did not deny the irregularities complained of but said that the situation had changed because the management of the company was now in different hands.

Mr. Justice Dillon directed the Official Receiver to prepare a report on the company's solvency, the independence of the present board and any other matters he felt should be drawn to the court's attention.

Combined NRDC and NEB chief appointed

By Our Industrial Editor

THE JOB of combining the operations of the National Enterprise Board and the National Research Development Corporation on a day-to-day basis was last night given to Mr. Brian Willett who has been acting chief executive of the NEB since November.

He was appointed chief executive of both the NEB and NRDC by Sir Frederick Wood, chairman of the two organisations, who has gained Government approval to carry out a gradual merger during the next two years.

Their deputy chief executive is to be Dr. Jim Cain, currently managing director of the NRDC.

Mr. Willett, aged 41, has been on secondment from the Department of Industry since last year when he was appointed the board's secretary.

BL engineering plant for Cankey

BL CARS is to retain the former Triumph plant at Cankey, Coventry, and spend £10m developing it as an engineering centre for the Metro and new vehicles. Computer controlled technology will be installed to test car components.

Talbot UK has paid between £15m and £20m in redundancy settlements to the workforce at its Linwood plant which closed yesterday.

Rights inquiry for Maze men

THE EUROPEAN Commission on Human Rights is to resume investigations into complaints in 1978 from IRA men in the Maze prison near Belfast, regarding alleged interference with letters and a lack of redress to higher authority.

Meanwhile, a Londonderry man died yesterday after being struck by a plastic bullet. Rioting followed the death of a fourth hunger striker, Patsy O'Hara, 23, of Londonderry.

Targets set for National Bus

THE state-owned National Bus Company has been set a profit target by the Government and must cut operating costs by 3 per cent in real terms by the end of this year.

Mr. Norman Fowler, Transport Secretary, told the Commons yesterday National Bus had until 1985 to achieve a current cost surplus of £18.5m before interest payments to the Government.

Line 'in tatters'

THE UNBILICAL lifeline of a diving bell in which two North Sea divers died was "in tatters" and not adequate to bring it to the surface, a Department of Energy inspector told a fatal accident inquiry in Aberdeen yesterday.

Pan Am waits

PAN AMERICAN World Airways, which complained to Mr. John Biffen, Secretary for Trade, on May 5 about losses suffered by airlines in the air traffic controllers' strikes, has had no reply. It said yesterday would be revisiting the UK were re-examining their plans.

Silt damages

TATE and LYLE Distribution was awarded \$74,407 damages in the High Court in London yesterday after sitting in the Thames hindered access to its jetty and wharves. The award includes interest but will be frozen pending appeals by the Greater London Council and the port authority.

Cant to retire

MR. BOB CANT, aged 65, Labour MP for Stoke on Trent Central since 1966, is to stand down at the next general election.

"My appointment as chairman of the County Education Committee influenced my decision and I want to concentrate on that job," he said yesterday.

White-collar union at BL calls on Edwardes to resign

By John Lloyd, Labour Correspondent

A BL union has called for the resignation of the company's chairman, Sir Michael Edwardes.

The motion was passed at the annual conference in Bournemouth of TASS, the white collar section of the engineering union, which has 4,500 draughtsmen and other technical members in the company.

The emergency motion, carried unanimously, called for Sir Michael's resignation and said "the major contribution has been to reduce capacity to a level which endangers survival while increasing financial losses."

The motion said he should be replaced "by a person committed to the implementation of expansion policies as envisaged by the Ryder report."

It condemned plant closures including the Rover assembly plant at Solihull, and said: "The policies of the BL board and the attitude of its chairman, Sir Michael Edwardes, in seeking profits at the short term are adversely affecting the long-term competitiveness and survival of the company."

Senior officials of the union now accept that there is little hope for BL as an independent, wholly British-owned car producer because of what they see as lack of investment in the past. They believe the only strategy for the company to pursue is to remain as much strength as possible to bargain effectively for a merger with a foreign-owned, probably Japanese, volume car producer.

In Liverpool, shop stewards at Ford's Halewood plant, are to recommend to the plant's 10,000-strong workforce, at a mass meeting today, that they end the unofficial stoppage which has halted all car and van production.

The expected return to work of the 10,000 strikers after the holiday weekend will allow resumption of work by 2,000 transmission plant workers at Halewood and 5,000 workers at Southamption because of component shortages.

The Halewood shop stewards met for two hours yesterday to review the compromise reached by union leaders and management under which the disciplinary code against the strikers would be withdrawn in return for a union commitment to improve self discipline.

The chairman of the shop stewards' committee, Mr. Ritchie Rowlands, said the stewards were "pretty happy" over the outcome of the negotiations.

"The decision has taken the Halewood workforce back to the agreement they had before November," he said.

Under the disciplinary code introduced last November, workers who went on unofficial strike were suspended without pay for the rest of the shift and for their next shift. The procedure has caused extensive lay-offs because of disputes.

The company said last night that the strike had cost £84m, and production of 14,200 vehicles had been lost.

Nupe backs ambulance staff claim

By Our Labour Editor

THE National Union of Public Employees yesterday declared its "full support" for industrial action by ambulance men if it proves necessary to secure a bigger wage offer.

Voting at Nupe's 104 ambulance branches, accounting for about 10,000 of the 18,000 staff, showed a majority of six to one in favour of action.

The form of protest is undecided. Nupe's national executive committee decided to consult with other unions which are testing their members' opinion and decide on action at a joint meeting early next month.

Ambulance men have rejected an offer of a 6 per cent pay rise over 12 months or 7.5 per cent over 15 months, increases within the Government's limit for the public services.

Nurses yesterday expressed anger at their 6 per cent pay offer. Delegates to the Royal College of Nursing's annual conference in Bournemouth unanimously passed an emergency motion urging all nurses to protest to their MPs.

They also called on negotiators to make urgent representations to Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Social Services Secretary.

Mr. John Hovess, a senior nursing officer from Plymouth, said nurses resented being confined to 6 per cent when electricians were given 10.3 per cent.

If exceptions could be made to 6 per cent cash limit in the public sector, then nurses, who had kept faith with the public and never resorted to industrial action, should also be treated exceptionally.

Mr. Hovess said that Mrs. Thatcher had insisted a higher pay award for police by saying it helped recruitment, and he pointed out that there was also a shortage of nurses.

Doctors are also seeking air support, meeting with Mr. Jackin on May 3 per cent offer. Their independent review body recommended 9 per cent.

Redundancy pay win for Times man

By Christian Tyler, Labour Editor

AN ARBITRATOR has decided that the former chief union representative of journalists on The Times is entitled to a redundancy payment in spite of the newspaper management's contention that he was not.

An award of £9,500 has been made by the arbitrator to Mr. Jacob Ecclesstone, who worked for the paper for 18 years, was made by the father of a child (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists, and who was last year elected to a full-time union job as deputy general secretary.

The Times chapel contended that Mr. Ecclesstone was entitled to the full terms of a voluntary redundancy arrangement introduced by the paper's new owner, Mr. Rupert Murdoch's News International, in order to shed 31 posts.

It said the fact that another job was available, had not interfered with other journalists' severance payments.

Initially, the company offered an ex-gratia payment of £887. It said Mr. Ecclesstone was not entitled to redundancy terms, which in his case would have amounted to over £14,000.

Mr. Norman Singleton, the arbitrator, said the case was eminently suitable for a compromise, which he fixed at £9,500. He said the award reflected his assessment of the arguments advanced by both parties and the general merits of the case.

Burmah jobs battle begins

A BATTLE began yesterday over 1,000 jobs at the Burmah Oil refinery at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

Union officials will meet management over the company's decision to close the refinery progressively from December because of tough times in the industry.

The unions want Mr. David Brown, the refinery's general manager, to intervene. The company said the refinery lost £10m last year.

More car licence delays likely after walkout

By Our Labour Staff

FURTHER DELAYS to drivers' licence applications are likely after a walkout yesterday by some 4,000 staff at the strike-hit Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre, Swansea, in protest at senior management driving supplies through a picket line.

Backlogs of applications have built up at the centre from three weeks' action by 13 engineers and technicians. This has affected the air-conditioning of the computers, which have had to be switched off.

Nitrogen gas supplies for the plant were taken through the centre's picket line by a senior manager's employee in the Property Services Agency.

Local Civil Service union officials disputed whether even with the gas supplies the system could be repaired, and the computers restarted, until well into next week.

The Civil Service unions' action involving air traffic control staff continued yesterday, though there will be more over the Bank Holiday weekend.

The Civil Aviation said there were no services at Edinburgh, Prestwick, or Liverpool airports due to action by air traffic staff, but that a "very limited" service was provided at Glasgow.

The Foreign Office has announced that the strike-bound passport offices were again able to handle them. Only personal tax and postal applications are being dealt with.

The Government, in a Commons written answer from Mr. Barney Heyhoe, Civil Service Minister, said yesterday in reply to criticism of an 18 per cent increase for MPs at a time when civil servants had been offered 7 per cent that 14,200 civil servants earned more than the MP's new salary of £13,950.

This, however, represents about 2.5 per cent of the non-industrial Civil Service.

British Airways cabin staff called their threatened industrial action over service standards at a mass meeting at Heathrow.

Soaring tax and price index figures rebound on Government

By Peter Riddell, Economics Correspondent

THE TAX and price index launched in August 1979 to give—according to Mr. Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury—a "better indication of changes in total household costs than the retail prices index does on its own."

But the idea has backfired on its architects. Government figures published yesterday show that the tax and price index rose by 15.7 per cent in the year to April compared with a 12 per cent increase in the retail prices index.

The gap is the result both of

the decision not to raise personal income tax allowances in the 1981 Budget and of the increase in employees' national insurance contributions.

The tax and price index is wider than the long-standing retail prices index since it takes account of changes in direct taxes. It measures the change in gross earnings (before tax) needed to maintain take-home pay in real (inflation-adjusted) terms.

So the index can be compared with average earnings to see what is happening to real

incomes.

The index was devised to show the favourable impact of the income tax cuts in the June 1979 Budget and to offset the unfavourable impact on the retail prices index of the near doubling of Value Added Tax. Even at the time the index was widely criticised as a political gimmick and union negotiators preferred to use the retail prices index as a yardstick in bargaining.

Any political advantages have rebounded on the Government because of the rise in the per-

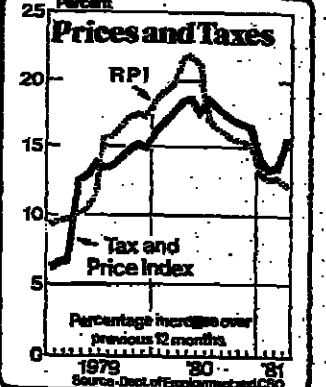
sonal tax burden in the last two Budgets.

During the 1980-81 financial year the tax and price index rose by between 11 and 14 per cent, faster than the retail prices index. But now the gap has widened to 3.7 points.

On a longer-term comparison the tax and price index has risen slightly faster than the retail prices index in the two years since the election, showing that any gains for the average wage-earner produced by the first Tory Budget have been

more than cancelled out.

Whatever the short-term political embarrassment caused by the gap between the growth rates of the two indices the Government is clearly stuck with the tax and price index. Some economists would argue that this is no bad thing since the tax and price index provides a fuller picture of real incomes than would otherwise be available. The index makes it more difficult to push through tax increases on the quiet through a failure to raise personal allowances.



THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Good guesswork is no insurance

SHARES BATTLED, but failed significantly to make any headway in the first leg of the new account. The threat, eventually borne out, of yet higher U.S. interest rates, the large lines of stock in leading companies coming out from groups of brokers and the rights issue overhang proved far too much for the market's stuttering attempts to rally.

Shares drifted downwards throughout the week with much attention focused on the insurance composite and broking sectors. Guardian Royal Exchange finally unveiled its £76m cash call but its identity was an open secret for much of the period. It turned out that the size of the call was somewhat less than anticipated but, coming on the heels of the Royal Insurance fund raising, the composite sector turned notably weaker.

Its broking 'cousin' was also friendless. The attempt in the House of Commons to split Lloyds' broking and underwriting functions forced broking shares downwards although, towards the close, the more sanguine were reminding themselves that the firms have five years before a divorce would become reality.

It took results from individual companies to provide much stimulus as there was. Unilever's good first quarter helped a little and the better than forecast performance from the Whitbread boosted confidence

throughout the breweries pitch. But the GRE deal, the strong probability that the rights issue has not been exhausted and the transatlantic pressures from the Fed's tight monetary stance pushed the FT Industrial Index down from 561.0 at the outset to 543.4 at the close yesterday. The bulls would need a telephone to find 600 now.

Shell beached

Oil shares are right out of fashion at the moment, and Shell's first quarter figures show why. Net income fell from £178m to £83.2m, and stripping out stock profits and currency items the drop is from £468m to £171m. The North American businesses chipped in more than £100m, much the same as last year, so things have clearly gone very wrong elsewhere.

Shell's production businesses in oil and gas continue to shine, although they are subject to higher and higher rates of tax. Refining and marketing, though, is a disaster: outside America the group made £105m less than the amount required to replace its stocks, and losses of £43m in chemicals came on top of this.

Sales volume remains under pressure, and Shell is still at a considerable disadvantage — as much as \$4 a barrel earlier in the year — against the Aramco partners who have access to cheap Saudi crude. Still, in some product markets now the oil majors are beginning to

LONDON

ONLOOKER

pass on their costs — in Germany, for example, the higher prices reflect a strong dollar more than anything else — and margins will probably be progressively restored over the rest of the year.

That will not be enough to make 1981 a happy year for Shell, but the group has plenty to look forward to on the production side over the next few years, and the shares yield more than 7 per cent.

Unilever awakes

The equity market has recently been rediscovering Unilever, which for far too long has been considered as a sluggish giant. First quarter pre-tax profits, up nearly 30 per cent to £161m, were anything but sluggish.

This peculiarity accounted for roughly half the rise in profits; this apart, what seems to have happened is that Unilever has maintained its trading margins on roughly unchanged volume. Considering that some of Unilever's businesses — roughly speaking those in which it is not selling direct to the consumer, such as

chemicals and packaging — were under great pressure, this looks a very satisfactory outcome.

The group has been helped by fairly soft raw material prices; in petrochemicals for its detergent business (Shell's distress is a boon for its customers) and in oils for the margarine side, where the constant rise in butter prices has removed another constraint on margins. North American earnings were roughly unchanged, not because Lever Brothers' well-known problems have got any worse, but because there was a major launch of Shield in the U.S. In the markets of the developing world Unilever is enjoying quite rapid growth.

Sir Michael's mix

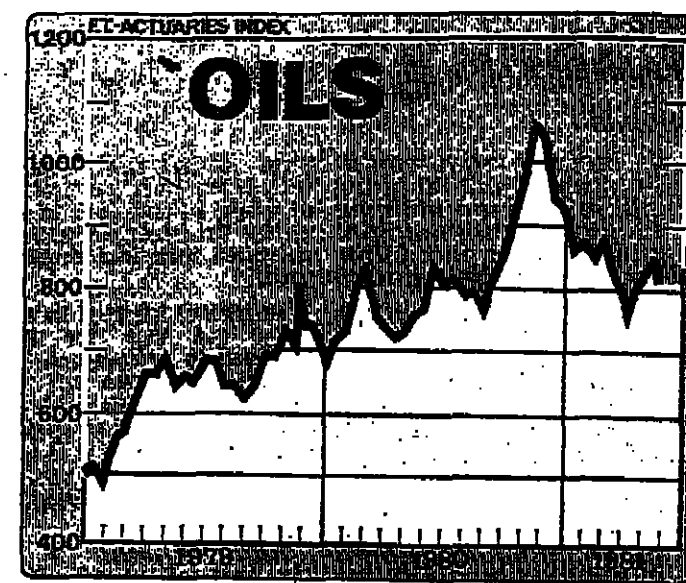
Marks and Spencer has provided a useful antidote to a string of poor results from Britain's battered retail sector. In contrast to British Home Stores and UDS, which have suffered from last year's price war for the decreasing number of pounds in consumers' pockets, M&S has increased its sales and, even more notably, raised its net margins.

The key to M&S's success appears to have been its decision not only to move down market while maintaining standards of quality, but also to reassess the potential of individual sites and if need be change the product mix according to the location. By homing in on the specific demands of its customers in particular areas, M&S appears to have won back some former customers who had been lured away by lower prices elsewhere and also won new customers at the lower end of the social scale from retailers such as Foster Brothers.

Further evidence of the switch in marketing policy was the opening on Wednesday of a smaller experimental store at Brentwood, which will sell a limited range of goods. Capital expenditure of £300m is earmarked over the next four years and is designed to increase the group's selling space by 500,000 square feet, roughly 2.5 per cent per year.

M&S's attempt to define its market sector more sharply in the search for continued growth in the UK reflects the changing nature of Britain's retailing. The past two decades when multiple stores moved into key high street sites and gradually increased the size of their footage and range of goods appears now to have been slightly overdone.

The future may lie with



chains like Habitat and Burton, which have concentrated on a smaller segment of the traditional market. M and S is hoping to gain its share of such specialisation and with profits possibly topping £200m this year it has ample resources at its disposal.

Ward's assault

Thos W. Ward's attempt to gain control of fellow cement maker Tunnel finally showed signs of pulling away from the starting line this week. On Tuesday Ward stepped up its bid terms to value Tunnel at £110m, or 48p a share, from an earlier offer pitched at £96m.

Tunnel swiftly rejected the higher price as a "desireless increase." But with an underwritten cash price of 435p Ward spent a euphoric couple of days buying Tunnel shares through the market before the price finally jumped to 450p on Thursday and beyond the grasp of Ward's market dealers.

Ward launched its attack in mid-March from the platform of a 29.9 per cent holding — a stake it has held since 1973 though relationships between the two have not always been cordial. Tunnel's categorical rejection of Ward's "impeccable logic" to a marriage, backed by a sharp profits rise from £10.5m to £14m and a 5p increase in the dividend to 14p, has won the loyalty of its shareholders. Despite extending its original bid twice Ward only managed to pick up a further 2.48 per cent of the shares.

But with the increased offer allowing it to step into the market Ward now has captured just over 40 per cent of the votes and the chairman, Sir Gordon Hobday, who has been chairman since 1975, will be stepping down at the end of this year. He is to be replaced by Dr. Peter Main, currently vice chairman.

The new chairman will inherit a strong balance sheet with plenty of cash.

Waterproof Boots

Given the difficulties in High Street retailing last year, the news from Boots this week was not too bad. The group managed to tread water with a pre-tax profit of £121.4m (against £121.3m).

Sales rose 14 per cent to £1,377m, but margins were squeezed in several key divisions. The important "Boots Chemists" business registered a 15 per cent increase in over the counter sales, but only 3 per cent of this was real growth.

Meanwhile, on the industrial side, a sales rise of 6 per cent still did not prevent profits from dropping 1 per cent as a result of the strength of sterling and the impact of international recession. Particularly hit in this division were agrochemical profits.

Besides these problems the group was also hit by the Government's increases in prescription charges.

In the market, the Boots figures led to a 4p drop in the share price to 245p on Thursday. Yesterday, the decline continued with a large line of shares on offer, leaving the quote down at 235p. The shares now yield around 4 1/2 per cent, which is no cause for excitement, but the payout is twice covered under inflation accounting.

Besides the financial news from Boots, it was also disclosed this week that Sir Gordon Hobday, who has been chairman since 1975, will be stepping down at the end of this year. He is to be replaced by Dr. Peter Main, currently vice chairman.

On a knife edge

NEW YORK

IAN HARGREAVES

WITH THE long memorial holiday weekend ahead, the New York stock market will have a small breather to relax and ruminate on the million dollar question that has turned it into a nervous wreck all year. Interest rates — will they go even higher or will they at last start to drift lower?

The market continues to have mixed views on this key issue. Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers and Al Wajnflower of First Boston, probably Wall Street's most pessimistic economic gurus, think even higher interest rates are still possible. The prime went up to 20 per cent this week and with short term interest rates sustaining their latest advance in the past few days it looks as if the prime could go even higher to 20.5 per cent in the next few days.

Indeed, Chase Manhattan raised its prime to 20.5 per cent yesterday morning because of the increase in its own cost of funds. This brings it close to the previous record of 21.5 per cent of last December.

But others, while not wholly disregarding the grim prognostications of Messrs Kaufman and Wajnflower, are beginning to draw some encouragement from the growing signs that consumer price inflation is beginning to moderate and that President Reagan seems willing to compromise on his proposed package of tax cuts. For some time the market has been concerned that the President's proposed three-year 30 per cent personal tax cuts would act as a further stimulant to inflation, although it now appears that the tax package will be watered down.

The latest consumer price figures, released by the Labour Department yesterday, showed the index rising by a meagre 0.4 per cent in April — lower than the expected increase of between 0.5-0.7 per cent.

With the encouraging picture for oil prices, the favourable trend in the consumer price index is generally expected to continue for a short time at least. Moreover, some of Wall Street's optimists claim that pressures from the money supply front are also easing and could help reduce the current momentum for higher short term interest rates.

But whichever way you look, the market remains on a knife edge, cushioned by Fed policy. The interest rate outlook and the economy as a whole. In such a situation, investors have continued to remain hesitant while traders have been distinctly aggressive. All week, trading volume on the New

York Stock Exchange has been moderate averaging about 45m shares a day, and in some sessions even lower.

It is hardly surprising. One encouraging piece of economic data sends the market one way, and some discouraging news sends it reeling back the other. It happened again yesterday. First came the good news from the consumer price index. Then the bad news with the latest prime rate increase. In these circumstances, small and large investors clearly prefer to sit on the sidelines and wait.

With rates in the secondary markets offering a substantial premium over inflation, many Wall Street analysts are advising their clients to maintain liquid positions and to take advantage of the high yields offered by the money markets in anticipation of an eventual pick-up in the stock market.

In spite of the prevailing gloom that has swept the market, stocks, although drifting lower all week, have not come under any heavy selling pressure, reflecting Wall Street's general "wait and see" mood. Indeed in some sectors and in the case of specific stocks, some issues have continued to show strength.

The airlines continued to do well all week, building on the advances they made the previous week. Lower fuel costs and signs of a pick-up in passenger traffic have sustained interest in this sector with individual airlines like Delta, Trans World, Eastern and Northwest, among others, putting on a good show.

The retail sector was also in the spotlight. Sears, Roebuck and J. C. Penney all turned in strong quarterly earnings and sales figures. Macy's earnings in the latest quarter were up an astonishing 89 per cent and the stock has recently featured prominently on all the Wall Street investment houses' recommended buy lists. Penney's earnings were tripled while Sears reported an advance of more than 30 per cent in first quarter profits.

American Telephone and Telegraph also managed to perform strongly in the market.

MONDAY	985.77	-8.18
TUESDAY	780.81	-5.76
WEDNESDAY	974.86	-3.15
THURSDAY	974.50	-0.37

MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price	Change	1981	1981	
	Yday	on week	High	Low	
F.T. Ind. Ord. Index	543.4	+17.6	597.3	446.0	Interest rate fears
Aust. Cons. Minerals	26	+7	30	14	Permit next to Vangas find
Bluemel Brothers	36	-6	45	21	Interim loss & div. omission
Eagle Corp.	53	+25	53	22	Permit next to Vangas find
Ferrand	480	-25	600	425	Fears of defence cuts
Gold Fields S.A.	440 1/2	+1 1/2	442 1/2	421 1/2	East/West Div. merger
G.R.E.	390	-32	362	286	Rights issue
Hambros Bank	780	+95	780	565	Investment demand
Hill (Chas.) of Bristol	92	+50	93	40	Bid approach
Howard Shuttering	44	+9	44	24	Country buying
ICI	286	-16	330	226	Sporadic selling
Jacksons (Bourne End)	192	+49	192	110	Development plan passed
Land Secs.	400	-22	433	357	Disap. with asset revaluation
Man. Agency & Music	180	-28	216	171	Profits warning
NatWest Bank	357	-29	398	342	Higher bank charges
Racal Elec.	363	-29	392	284	Fears of defence cuts
Shell Transport	386	-18	470	348	Disappointing 1st 1/2 figures
Swan Resources	70	+30	72	40	Permit next to Vangas find
Tunnel B	450	+36	450	236	T. W. Ward increases bid
Vangas	775	+365	775	350	Oil discovery in W. Australia

Gold mines look to the future

MINING

GEORGE MILLING-STANLEY

GOLD REMAINED the centre of interest in the mining world this week, as Consolidated Gold Fields followed last week's publication of Gold 1981, its annual worldwide survey of trends in the gold industry, with a conference on world gold markets at London's Guildhall on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr R. S. Lawrence, this year's president of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa, provided some illuminating statistical comparisons between 1970 and last year, and revealed that the gold mines in the Republic plan capital spending over the first six years of the 1980s of around R7.5bn (£4.2bn), more than twice the amount spent in the whole of the 1970s.

Spending of this order will be necessary for the mines to maintain

current production levels of around 675 tonnes a year, by far the largest from any individual country in the world.

The Chamber of Mines believes that the gold price will continue to rise in real terms over the next 10 years, and has prepared forecasts of annual output until 1990 using three price profiles. The lowest of these is \$395 an ounce in 1981, rising to \$625 in 1990 in real terms, and the highest is \$595 in 1981 rising to \$825 by 1990.

Using the lowest of these profiles, the Chamber predicts that output this year will be 675 tonnes, virtually unchanged from 1980, rising to 739 tonnes by 1986 and then falling back to 649 tonnes in 1990.

This implies that the capital spending discussed by Mr. Lawrence will go ahead provided that the price does not fall significantly below the \$395 level.

One gold producing group which need have no fear about what happens to the price of gold this year is Canada's Little Long Lac Gold Mines, which

accounts for about 10 per cent of that country's production.

As a result of selling the whole of this year's output forward, the companies within the group expect to realise an average price of C\$735 per ounce (U.S.\$615 at current exchange rates) for their estimated 1981 output of 178,200 ounces.

The wisdom of the forward transactions is already showing through in profits. Little Long Lac, the leading company of the group, this week reported first-quarter net profits of C\$6.1m (£2.4m) or C\$1.89 a share, up from 1980's first quarter net of just C\$5781,000 or 22 cents.

The company's profits are mainly derived from its equity interests in the earnings of Lake Shore Mines and Long Lac Mineral Explorations, and their subsidiaries Wilroy Mines, Les Terrains Affreres, Malartic (Quebec), Silverstack Mines, Copper Giant Mining and Les Mines d'Or Thompson-Bossuet.

Mr Peter Allen, chairman of Little Long Lac, believes the outlook for the gold price in 1981 is for a "more stable, narrow trading range around current levels." With sales of Krugersands well up and support for bullion around the U.S.\$460 mark in spite of higher interest rates, Mr. Allen said the gold market "seems to have a better tone."

The group's optimism is bolstered by the fact that it is composed of relatively low-cost producers, all of whom are capable of substantial extensions to present reserves.

South Africa's second largest mining group, Gemcor, is also believed to have made some ex-

periments with forward sales.

Another way in which gold producers can protect themselves from violent fluctuations in the bullion price is through hedging transactions on the various gold futures markets around the world.

This week brought the news that one of the gold mines in South Africa's Anglo-Transvaal Consolidated, Investment (Anglo-Vaal) group is to make a small trial hedge transaction in one of the U.S. futures markets.

The Reserve Bank of South Africa has given the move its blessing, as the mine is now merely waiting for the finalisation of exchange control formalities.

Anglo-Vaal believes that the mine, which was not named, will be the first South African gold producer to attempt to protect itself in this way. But it is unlikely to be the last.

Another unnamed gold mine, belonging to one of the other South African mining finance houses, has been granted similar approval in principle by the Reserve Bank, and more are expected to follow.

Robb Plumbbridge of Gold Fields of South Africa told me yesterday that the mines in his group were unlikely to follow Anglo-Vaal's lead, and the Reserve Bank made the point that the futures markets would probably have most appeal for the marginal mines and those just starting operations.

The Anglo-Vaal mine will apparently be acting as a kind of guinea pig, and will share the results of its experiments with other South African gold producers.

Metal-bashers bashed

BY RAY MAUGHAN

THE ENGINEERING industry is giving every appearance of having taken another step down the demand escalator. Hopes expressed in Government circles that the destocking phase is ending seem sharply at variance with the experiences of front-line industrial managers.

"Demand fell off a cliff," or a phrase very much like it, is an expression which has been used by countless managers to describe the manner in which customers suddenly cut off the ordering tap in April last year. The turn, after the artificially stimulated conditions in the preceding months of the steel strike, was so sharp that several industrialists say half-jokingly that they could pinpoint the day, even the hour, at which the recession started in earnest.

That was last spring. Industry was caught very much on the hop and did little to reset until after the traditional August shut-down when it became obvious that the slump was by no means temporary, and, worse, the schedules for the autumn had fallen even against spring and summer levels.

The subsequent employment shake-out has been acute. Engineering companies have pruned labour, axed marginal operations, pared production and chopped inventories. The recession, however, has claimed comparatively few victims; a programme of centrally inspired bank support has kept several obvious candidates out of the terminal ward and pushed them back, walking stick in hand, to shuffle off to convalescence.

The stock market has taken a highly optimistic interpretation of these events. Brokers have been telling clients that the shake-out is a blessing in disguise giving managers an ideal opportunity to hone British engineering to a lean, fit pitch capable of taking on and beating international competition when demand turns up. The sterling inspired obstacles to profitable exporting will, it has been suggested, come down broadly in line with interest rates.

Dividends were cut. Yet, having taken all the knocks on the chin, engineering companies were said to have found a minimum level of sensible distribution and the stock market seemed happy to discount a low rate of income for a year or a little longer.

But a report prepared by a working party of Government, employer and union representatives of the mechanical engineering sector, published earlier this month, predicted that the recovery would be weak

and slow. The recession, it said, may be bottoming out but little improvement was expected before next year. Orders may rise by 5 per cent in 1982 but a further 100,000 jobs may be lost in the sector before the end of this year. Tube Investments has already said that, far from recovering quickly this year, it has lost £10m in the first quarter.

Associated Engineering gave ample evidence during the week that recovery is indeed a long way off. It halved its dividend last year and, on conventional stock market wisdom, that should have been enough. But the group has passed the interim this year and will not make any decision about the final payment until it has had a clear look at 1982 prospects.

It is seeing what it describes as "batches of demand" but these are not permanent. Customers are not undertaking much stock building and demand changes at very short notice.

Citing the continued strength of sterling against Continental currencies, the stubborn sluggishness of world trade and, in particular, the difficulties of the UK motor industry, the group says that there is a lot more restructuring to do. It has had to notify further redundancies at a first half cost of £4.2m, including closure costs, and is bracing itself for perhaps a further 1,000 lay-offs before the year end. It lost £1.7m pre-tax at the interim stage when the City is not expecting anything much more than break-even in the second half.

As an automotive component manufacturer, AE is heavily identified with the UK motor trade and the component sector has fared notably worse than the process and mechanical engineering categories on the Stock Exchange.

The Hoare Govett computer shows that the components sector has only fallen fractionally over the past year in absolute terms but has lost over 23 per cent relative to the FT All-Share Index over the same period. The absolute and relative figures for the last month

show a loss of 3.4 per cent and a 0.5 per cent gain respectively.

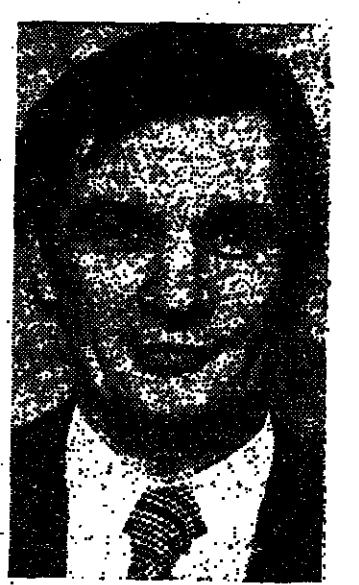
The 196 stocks which comprise the mechanical engineering sector have fared somewhat better. The absolute performance shows a 33 per cent advance over 12 months but a downturn of 6.1 per cent in the last month. In relative terms, the sector is now outperforming the market by only 1.9 per cent on an annual basis and has underperformed by 2.4 per cent in the recent four weeks.

In any event, AE has been changing its spots. The last accounts showed that only 14 per cent of its turnover stemmed from the UK automotive original equipment market and the make-up of Phillips and Drew's profit forecast for the year as a whole shows how the operating profile is altering.

The broker believes that the turbine division, linked to the buoyant aerospace industry, will be worth £8m before tax and interest. The UK components activities (including distribution) will chip in some £5m at the trading level which will be underpinned by the £3m forecast from overseas subsidiaries (notably in Australia and South Africa) but wiped out by the expected annual redundancy and closure bill of perhaps £7m.

P and D says that the overall trading profit of some £12m will be eliminated by interest charges of around £14m.

The pervasive air of gloom was reinforced last week by Ransome Hoffman Pollard and



JOHN FERGUSON, CHAIRMAN OF ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING

Redman Heenan International. RHP has had to knock out another bearing plant to bring capacity down into line with demand which suffered a 20 per cent volume decline in the UK during the first half. And Redman is saying that orders to date in the year to September next, have been 40 per cent below that of the comparable period of last year.

The board of each company believes that the results corrective action and the benefits of balance sheet strength will enable them to tread water quite comfortably until the upturn comes. But, as Lord Caldecote made it perfectly clear to shareholders at the annual meeting of Delta, things are not going to start getting any better until next year.

UNIT TRUST AND INSURANCE OFFERS

PAGE

M & G Group

Tyndall Managers Limited

Deposits of £1,000-£50,000 accepted for fixed terms of 3-10 years. Interest paid gross, half-yearly. Rates for deposits received not later than 29.5.81 are fixed for the terms shown:

Term (years)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Interest %	12 3/4	12 1/2	12	11 3/4	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/8	11 1/16

Deposits to and further information from The Insurance Finance for Industry Limited, 51 Waterloo Road, London SE1 4JF (01-571 7822 Ex. 307). Cheques payable to "Bank of England, n/c PFI".

Finance for Industry Limited.

Today's Rates 12 3/4 - 13 3/16

The new Tyndall & Co. Money Fund—11 1/2% on deposit and write your own cheques

Now, with the new Tyndall & Co. Money Fund you can benefit from really top rates for deposits — and still keep your funds immediately accessible.

What makes the Tyndall & Co. Money Fund so special for the private investor, is the unique cheque book facility. You can withdraw all or part of your deposit simply by writing a cheque.

All you need to open a Money Fund Account is a minimum sum of £2,500. As a depositor you benefit from the higher money market rates through the pooling of funds. Your money is invested only with major banks and selected local authorities.

Interest is credited to your account quarterly, without deduction of tax. There are no charges.

*Current rate. Rate published daily in the Financial Times.

Please send me full details of the Tyndall & Co. Money Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

Tyndall & Co. 29/33 Princess Victoria Street, Bristol BS8 4DF

Telephone: Bristol (0272) 32241.

Tyndall & Co.

Licensed by the Bank of England to take Deposits. FT 23/5/81

FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

A house in the UK

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

I am thinking of buying a house in the UK. Pending my return.

(a) At current rates of interest what would be the gross repayment on a £25,000 mortgage and what tax relief could I expect on this?

(b) I understand that the limits regarding stamp duty have changed recently. How much would I have to pay on a property worth £25,000 or £40,000?

(a) Tax relief would be the equivalent of income tax on the interest paid. What the gross repayment would be depends on the period for which the repayment mortgage for £25,000 repayable over 25 years, it would at present be getting on for £300 a month.

(b) Transfers above £35,000 attract 2 per cent stamp duty and are unaffected by the changes in last year's Finance Act.

The matrimonial home

In 1977 I purchased my home giving a legal charge over the property to a Clearing Bank. In 1979 I married. I now wish to transfer the legal charge from the Clearing Bank to a Merchant Bank to secure proposed company funding. The Merchant Bank are requesting that my wife signs a document stating that she has no claim prior to herself over the property, which she declines to do. In your opinion, please: what rights (if any) does my wife have over the matrimonial home?

It is quite likely that your wife has no rights in the property other than such rights as she may have as your spouse to reside there. However, the Merchant Bank's attitude is dictated by a recent decision in the House of Lords that a mortgagee which fails to inquire of a spouse will be fixed with notice of any rights which he or she does actually have in the property. You can of course sell the property if you wish, but any purchaser may likewise wish to be assured that your wife does not have a claim (e.g. that she has acquired an equitable interest in the house by spending money on it). However, if a purchaser invites your wife to state if she has an interest and she does not do so, she may in turn be estopped from later asserting such an interest.

A teachers pension abroad

Under Teacher's pension in Spain (April 16) you say such a pension derived from the UK would be taxable in the UK. I served in the N.E.S. and when I retired in 1969 I was told that I could receive my pension and be taxed abroad. Has there been a change recently? Would the position be the same if I went to live in Cyprus?

On the facts outlined, article 19(3) of the Spain-UK double tax convention of October 21, 1975, would indeed mean that your NHS pension would remain subject to UK tax (but be exempt from Spanish tax).

Conversely, article 19(1) of the Cyprus-UK double tax convention of June 20, 1974, (as amended by the protocol of April 2, 1980) means that, if your NHS pension were subject to tax in Cyprus, it would be exempt from UK tax.

No doubt the taxation authorities in Cyprus and the UK will be pleased to confirm the prospective tax position for you.

Irish and UK tax

In a reply to an inquiry from me which you published on April 4 under the heading Irish and UK tax, you mentioned that I should not be prepared to accept an average rate of exchange for each of the three years involved if the Inspector should suggest this. As I received substantial dividend payments on April 31, June 27, and November 19, 1980, and February 2, 1981, could you say what the exchange rates were on these days? I take it I must accept average rates in respect of pensions payable monthly. When would the average rate for 1980-81 be available?

It is the days on which the Irish dividends were payable (the dates of the dividend warrants) which count, not necessarily the days on which you received the dividend payments. If your local reference library does not keep copies of the FT (and since you did not cut out and keep the exchange rates etc. from your own copies), you may like to order the appropriate issues from our Back Numbers Department; you will, of course, need the issue for the day following the date of each dividend. The amount assessable in

the UK will be the aggregate of each dividend and its Irish tax credit, and you will be entitled to credit for the residual Irish tax at 15 per cent on the aggregate, under articles 11 (2) (a) (i) and 21 (2) (a) of the Ireland-UK double taxation convention of June 2, 1976, (as amended by the protocol of October 28, 1979).

The year's average rate will be suitable for converting Irish pensions, provided that the amount remains fixed (or only changes at the end of March). You should be exempt from Irish tax on your pensions, under article 17 (1) of the convention (or article 18 (1), if you are a pensioner of the Irish Government or an Irish local authority, and you are not an Irish citizen). Only 90 per cent of your Irish pensions will be assessable in the UK, by virtue of section 49 (6) of the Finance Act 1976. The official average exchange rates for 1980-81 are likely to be published by the Inland Revenue within the next few weeks.

Aggregation and clawback

On March 20, 1974 (a few days before the introduction of Capital Transfer Tax on estates of deceased persons) my late wife made a gift of £15,500, by cheque, to our daughter. My wife died on August 1, 1979 and in her will bequeathed to our daughter her free estate which amounted to £24,248. I have been given to understand that there would have been no Capital Transfer Tax payable on the free estate as it was under £25,000, but since my wife did not live the full seven years after making the gift in March 1974 there is a liability to Capital Transfer Tax when the free estate is aggregated with the gift after allowing some taper relief in respect thereof. Could you let me have your opinion on this?

It is correct that Section 23(5) of the Finance Act 1975 provides for a "clawback" in circumstances such as you describe. There should be a 30 per cent reduction (under Schedule 17 to the Finance Act 1969) in the £15,500 gift for the purposes of aggregating it, so that £10,850 has to be added to the £24,248, leaving £35,098 to come into charge for Capital Transfer Tax (ie after deducting £25,000).

Computation of dollar gains

In your answer of May 2 under Computation of Dollar Gains you say that withdrawals from a dollar bank account are liable to Capital Gains Tax. I am having a holiday home built in Florida. As a precaution against a fall in the value of the pound before the house is completed I placed the necessary funds in a dollar deposit account with a UK bank. On transferring the dollars from this account to the U.S. to pay for the house could a liability to Capital Gains Tax arise although the dollars have not been converted to sterling? If the answer is yes, presumably the cost of the house for Capital Gains Tax purposes is the sterling equivalent of the dollar cost at the time of withdrawal from the account. If the answer is no is the cost for Capital Gains Tax purposes the original sterling cost of the dollars?

In your particular circumstances, your dollar bank balance will be exempt from CGT (and consequently any loss will not be allowable for CGT). Subsection 2 of section 135 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 exempts from CGT "a sum in an individual's bank account representing currency acquired by the holder for the personal expenditure outside the UK of himself or his family or dependants (including expenditure on

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

the provision or maintenance of any residence outside the UK)."

The currency itself is similarly exempted by section 133 of the CGT Act. The cost of the house, for CGT purposes, should be calculated by reference to the exchange rate on the day of the contract (which is the day on which the house is deemed to have been acquired, for CGT purposes), regardless of when payment is made. Incidental expenses should be converted at the rate of exchange on the day on which they are payable, regardless of when they are actually paid.

VAT and locks on Windows

I have just had locks put on most of my windows, which have had no locks before. The account I have received includes 15 per cent VAT. Would you say that VAT is payable on new additional locks on a dwelling house?

We think that you may have difficulty in reclaiming your VAT on the basis that it was incorrectly charged because the Customs and Excise may argue that although your property was altered the alteration was too small to come within the meaning of that word as used in the VAT legislation. We suggest that you get in touch with the supplier and inform him that as the locks were supplied in the course of the alteration of your house they should be zero rated and that accordingly you have been overcharged.

A fresh holiday letting

We have made a holiday letting for six months of a seaside house we own. The occupants would like to renew their lease for a further short period. We should be quite pleased to let them have it strictly temporarily, but might we run into problems of getting possession?

It would be unwise to extend the letting or to give a new tenancy to the same tenants. However, phrased, the letting could be seen as not in fact being a holiday letting. A fresh holiday letting to different tenants is indicated.

Assets up in flames



THOSE WHO DEVISE, and those who draft, our tax legislation have recently been taking some stick. But 'twas not ever thus.

The law on capital gains has contained, since 1965, provisions dealing with the loss or destruction of assets and the use of insurance proceeds for their replacement, which make unparalleled good sense. There has been no reported case in which either taxpayer or Revenue has complained of their being inequitable or inadequate.

But what the law requires in this area is so little known, even by some who call themselves experts, that there may be a rather different reason for taxpayers' lack of difficulties. Frequently the owner of the asset lost or destroyed does only what commonsense dictates, and thereafter discovers that tax law is in full accord with those actions.

To call this a happy accident is probably less than fair to legislators and draftsmen. I prefer to believe it is purposeful rather than happenstance; to say that it is both a description and a result of the well designed and drafted laws that joy cometh in the morning.

The first of the principles of capital gains tax in this area is that there is deemed to be a disposal of an asset whenever a capital sum is derived from that asset, notwithstanding the fact that the payer of that sum does not acquire the asset concerned. Your claim on the insurance when your warehouse is largely destroyed by fire is taken to be a disposal for capital gains tax purposes of that warehouse.

But if you spend the insurance monies on reinstatement of the building, you can require that the supposed disposal of the building be ignored; instead, you are regarded as continuing to own, unaltered, a building whose capital gains tax cost is the aggregate of what you originally paid for it plus what you spent on rebuilding, less the insurance contribution to the latter.

The same rules can apply even if you do not need to spend quite all of the insurance money and also where that insurance yields only a small amount towards the rebuilding costs. But a slightly different approach is needed where the insurance produces more than the total or original and rebuilding costs.

In this last case, the excess

insurance monies are taxed as a capital gain and the reinstated building is regarded as having a nil cost of acquisition should it subsequently be sold. Few could cavil at the commonsense in all this.

But attentive readers will have noticed that all these possibilities relate to a building damaged by fire. Had it been an asset completely destroyed by fire or other cataclysm, then the law insists that that must

allow the taxpayer who wants to do so to treat separately the building which has been totally destroyed and the land on which it stood. The result of doing so is that a disposal is deemed to have been made of each.

The roll-over available for the building should ensure that so far as it is concerned the tax position is essentially the same whichever computation is adopted—as a separate asset it was destroyed not damaged, and roll-over is therefore the one which must in fact be used. The extra benefit which the taxpayer may achieve results from the treatment of the land: being deemed to be sold and re-acquired at its market value, it could give an immediate loss for capital gains tax purposes, available against any gain on the building or on any other disposal.

Finally, although these rules do not in strictness apply to land and buildings held on a lease with less than fifty years to run, there is a concessional extension in the following circumstances. A lessee who has an obligation to reinstate the property should it be damaged would normally insure against that risk.

His leasehold interest in the land and building is an asset for capital gains tax purposes, albeit a rather less valuable one than a freehold. If he were to receive a capital sum from his insurers, that would strictly constitute proceeds of a deemed disposal of the damaged building—and the resulting liability to capital gains tax could be substantial.

The Revenue, by concession, allow him to claim that he has not disposed of his asset, so that the liability is avoided and the cost of the reinstated asset he continues to hold on lease becomes the excess of his expenditure over the insurance monies he received.

TAXATION

DAVID WAINMAN

constitute a capital gains tax disposal—and then promptly reduces or eliminates the tax liability by allowing a roll-over.

If the insurance proceeds are used to provide a replacement asset, those proceeds are for tax purposes split in two: a part equal to the asset's original cost is set against that cost so as to give a no-gain-no-loss result from the disposal. The remainder of the insurance proceeds are deducted from the cost of the replacement asset.

The word used in the previous three sentences was "asset." A building and the land on which it stands are generally treated in English law as indivisible. Therefore although the building may be burnt to the ground, that ground itself usually remains.

In that sense, land and buildings are more likely to be damaged than to be destroyed. The land's value remains. If destruction is taken to mean a total loss of value, it must be more apt for other assets—jewellery, for instance, or old masters.

But if we return to land and buildings, the Revenue have provided two further options. They

GUARANTEED EXTRA INTEREST

Capital Bonds guarantee you extra interest at the rate appropriate for the initial term you select. The longer you invest, the higher the interest rate. And you get all your extra interest right from the start.

STAY ON TOP RATES

If you choose a Bond of less than 5 years and then decide to leave your money invested, your extra interest will increase each year up to a maximum in the 5th and subsequent years. So you have a long term option from a short term investment.

WITHDRAWAL OPTION

At the end of the initial term selected you can withdraw all your investment. Or you can leave it to earn up to its highest interest at only 3 months' notice of repayment by the investor or the Society.

WIDER CHOICE

You can choose one or more Capital Bonds from the range and the table shows the current rates. You can invest any sum over £500 in multiples of £1 in any one Bond.

GREATER CAPITAL GROWTH

You can leave your interest invested in the Bond for even faster capital growth. For example, a 5 year Bond now offers 10.50% which compounds to an annual rate of 10.78%, worth 15.49% gross to basic rate taxpayers.

MORE MONTHLY INCOME

You can have your Capital Bond interest as regular monthly income, paid to a Nationwide Share Account, bank or Giro account. For example £5,000 with an initial 5 year term pays £43.75 a month at current rates.



Nationwide Capital Bonds are right for you, right for your money.

You've got some capital and want to make the most of it. Nationwide Capital Bonds give you a very wide choice. They guarantee extra interest above our variable Ordinary Share rate. The table shows the extra interest guaranteed for the initial term and the present interest rates based on our current Share rate of 8.50%. There are over 1,000 Nationwide branches and agency branches. Call in at your local branch or post the coupon.

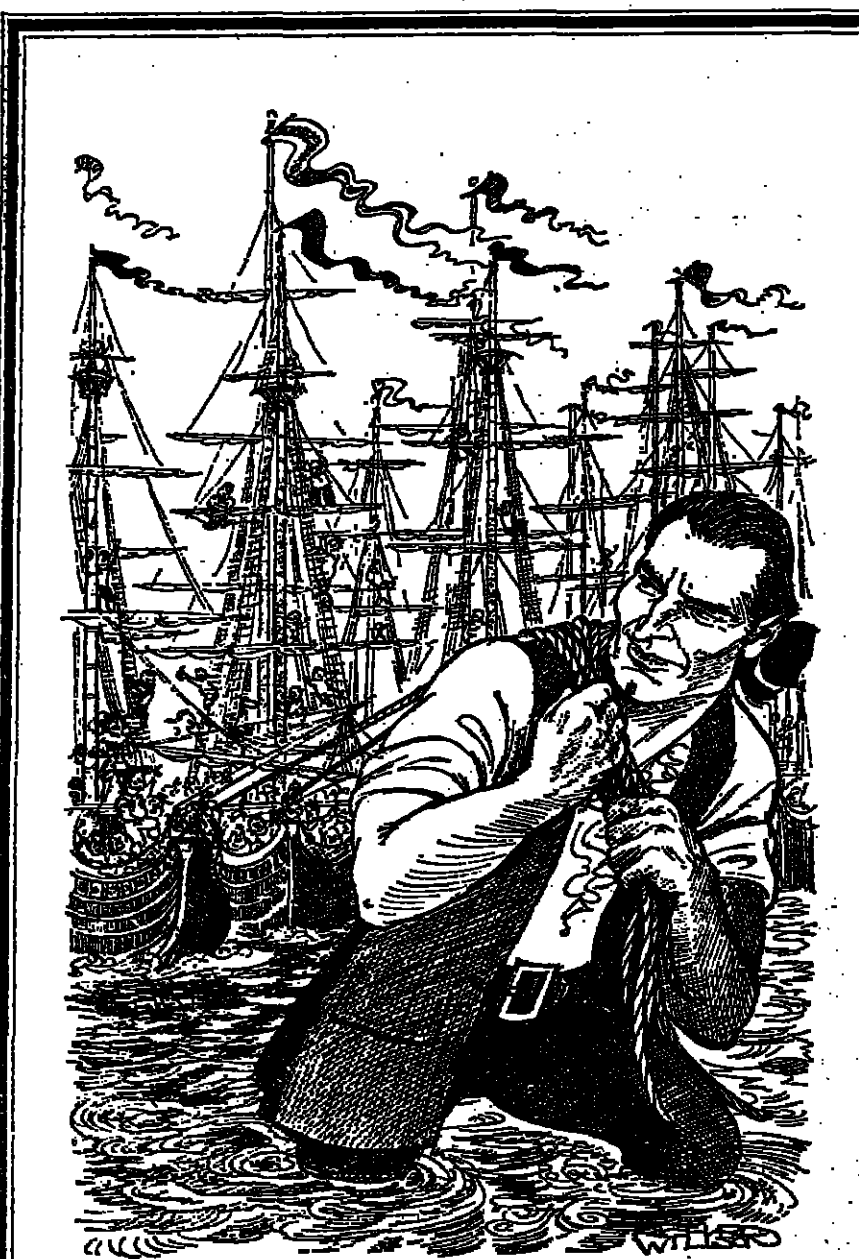
Initial Extra*	Term Interest	Gross†	Net*	£500-£20,000
5 yrs	+2%	15.00%	10.50%	
4 yrs	+1½%	14.29%	10.00%	10.50%
3 yrs	+1%	13.57%	9.50%	10.00% 10.50%
2 yrs	+¾%	13.21%	9.25%	9.50% 10.00% 10.50%
1 yr	+½%	12.86%	9.00%	9.25% 9.50% 10.00% 10.50%

* guaranteed above the prevailing Ordinary Share Account rate which may vary † gross to income tax payers * basic rate income tax paid

To: Nationwide Building Society, FREEPOST London WC1V 6XA.
I/We enclose a cheque for £ to be invested in a Nationwide Capital Bond for an initial term of 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years ☐ 4 years ☐ 5 years ☐ Interest is to be compounded ☐ or paid monthly ☐
Your total investment in all your Nationwide accounts must not exceed £20,000 (£40,000 for a joint account). No withdrawals are possible during the initial Bond term selected except following the death of an investor.

Nationwide Building Society

Full Name(s) _____
Address _____
Date _____ FT32



A HELPING HAND FOR THE PRIVATE INVESTOR

CAPEL-CURE MYERS cares about the private investor and, by caring, endeavours to provide secure management of investments for each individual client.

Because Capel-Cure Myers is a large stockbroker with world-wide connections it is able to advise you not only on UK investments, but also on how best to participate in the growth of other economies such as Japan or the USA or to keep you informed about special situations such as energy stocks and high technology.

With its experience and expertise in traditional stockbroking activities, backed by a wealth of knowledge from its research and professional departments, Capel-Cure Myers is able to construct and manage the most appropriate portfolio for every kind of private investor.

At Capel-Cure Myers you will be treated as an individual whatever amount you have to invest.

CAPEL-CURE MYERS
MEMBERS OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE
Bath House, Holborn Viaduct,
London EC1A 2EU. Tel: 01-236 5080
and Edinburgh.

write to John Henderson for your copy of A helping hand for the private investor

Name _____
Address _____

money care

It pays to decide Nationwide

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS-1

Richard Lambert looks behind the traded options jargon

A guide to the golden rules

I WOULDN'T like this to go any further, but I've never really got to grips with the traded options market. It is not entirely my fault. There is something about the jargon that has grown up around the options business which would make the dial on a computer glaze over with boredom.

It also seems to attract some pretty unsavoury characters. All those evangelical young men, looking rather like Billy Graham with stomach ache, who talk incessantly about the scope for "conservative risk reduction"—and at the same time let you know that here lies a way to instant riches.

Despite these handicaps, the London market in traded options has survived for three years. And although it can hardly be said to be flourishing on the level of business so far, it will reach a kind of maturity next week when for the first time it will be possible to trade in put options as well as in calls.

An option is a negotiable contract between a buyer and a seller. In this market, the buyer is willing to purchase or sell a specific number of shares at a fixed price within an

agreed time and to pay a price for the privilege—the option premium. The seller of the option is willing to grant these rights in return for the premium.

A call option grants the purchaser the right to buy shares from the seller of the option (the "writer"). And a put option gives the purchaser the right to sell shares to the writer, again at an agreed future date.

Still with us? In that case, you may like to know that a book has just been published on the subtle art of Trading in Options, which—although not exactly bath time reading—is at least intended to be read by the ordinary citizenry as opposed to mathematics professors at American business schools.

Geoffrey Chamberlain is head of option trading at stockbrokers Vickers de Costa, one of the firms which has been pushing traded options hard from the very beginning. Among other items, his book includes a glossary, a guide to the mechanics of the market place and a summary of the tax treatment of traded options.

It also contains a timely guide to trading put options. In essence, the concepts will be familiar to anyone who has already had a crack at the call option market.

In each case, the option consists of three parts: a description of what the purchaser may buy or sell to the writer of the

option market.

Trading in put options will begin on Thursday in three companies—Racal, Lonrho and BP. A Stock Exchange spokesman said that it is hoped to introduce others in time "but we want to start off reasonably gently and see how these ones go"

option; the price at which this will be transacted; and the period of time over which the buyer must exercise his rights

—or lose them altogether.

In a traded options market, the price at which the option buyer may deal in the underlying security is standardised on a pre-set formula, and either party to the deal may end his commitment at a moment's notice simply by effecting the appropriate purchase or sale in the market place.

Mr. Chamberlain thinks that much of the action in put options will centre on those which expire within a short period of time, as professional traders try to exploit short term swings in share prices. However, the longer dated options may often provide the best value to those who think that the stock market is heading for a violent fall.

There are three golden rules for straight put option purchases. Don't buy puts unless you think that the market as a whole is set for a tumble. If share prices generally are firm, it is very difficult to make money on the bear tack even though a particular stock may look howlingly expensive.

Don't hesitate to sell the option when your profit target

has been reached—no matter how long the option may still have to run before expiring, or how weak the market as a whole may appear.

Unless you are convinced that a share is going to fall significantly from its present level, purchase put options with an exercise price at or just below the current price of the stock.

An investor, unsure of market timing over the short term, might decide to use put options as a form of insurance policy against a fall in the market. Similarly a number of useful strategies are open to sellers of put options, who may be trying to buy selected equities at falling prices or simply hoping to boost their income by collecting the option premium.

Mr. Chamberlain is not entirely free from the marks of his trade. He is just a bit too keen to emphasise how unspeculative the options business can be, and the word "conservative" crops up too many times for comfort. But he succeeds in explaining both the basic rules of the game and many of its quaintly named investment strategies, all of which are illustrated with painstaking examples. If you really want to "walk up a naked butterfly" (can this be right?) he is the man to hold your hand.

"Trading in Options," by Geoffrey Chamberlain. Woodhead-Faulkner, 8, Market Passage, Cambridge. £9.75.

Battle of the high streets

BANKS
TIM DICKSON

BARCLAYS BANK this week duly announced details of its plan to charge customers of other banks who cash cheques at its near 3,000 branches. Judging by the reaction of its rivals, the move clearly represents one of the biggest battles in recent years in the increasingly choppy waters of retail banking.

At this stage National Westminster is leading the opposition camp, but the detailed response of any of the other high street banks has yet to emerge. Customers can be forgiven for feeling baffled by retail banking developments in recent weeks and it is clear that some issues are being confused. Here is an attempt to clear the muddled waters and distinguish between three distinct areas of competition: such as the gas and electricity authorities for this service.

Banks had a standard arrangement for settling the costs of the work they did for their rivals' customers and this was passed on to the company/ utility for whom the money was destined. This agreement, however, is being dropped by the banks at the end of this month because the Office of Fair Trading has said it may be a restrictive practice.

It is being replaced by a series of bilateral agreements

between the individual banks but largely as a result of pressure from utilities like the electricity board who objected to picking up a big bill, some customers will now have to pay for the service themselves.

Thus Midland was the first to announce that customers of other banks and those without a bank account will have to pay 30p a time for a credit transfer payment made through one of its branches. (from June 1) Barclays and National Westminster followed suit this week and Lloyds says it has something similar in mind.

Reciprocal cheque encashment. Customers of the big high street banks have always been able to use the branches of their rivals to cash cheques. But now they will have to pay a charge. This week Barclays announced that from September 1 those who bank elsewhere will have to pay 50p a time for the service.

Barclays estimates that it cashed 24m cheques a year for other banks' customers, while it handled only 12m a year for Barclays' though other banks question these figures. At the moment National Westminster at least says it may retaliate by charging customers of Barclays who cash cheques in its branches but it is hoping to come to a more amicable arrangement with the others.

between the individual banks but largely as a result of pressure from utilities like the electricity board who objected to picking up a big bill, some customers will now have to pay for the service themselves.

Thus Midland was the first to announce that customers of other banks and those without a bank account will have to pay 30p a time for a credit transfer payment made through one of its branches. (from June 1) Barclays and National Westminster followed suit this week and Lloyds says it has something similar in mind.

Reciprocal cheque encashment. Customers of the big high street banks have always been able to use the branches of their rivals to cash cheques. But now they will have to pay a charge. This week Barclays announced that from September 1 those who bank elsewhere will have to pay 50p a time for the service.

Barclays estimates that it cashed 24m cheques a year for other banks' customers, while it handled only 12m a year for Barclays' though other banks question these figures. At the moment National Westminster at least says it may retaliate by charging customers of Barclays who cash cheques in its branches but it is hoping to come to a more amicable arrangement with the others.

The Association of Investment Trust Companies

THE INVESTMENT TRUST TABLE

The figures in the columns below are based on information supplied by the companies named, which are members of The Association of Investment Trust Companies. The figures are unaudited.

as at close of business on Monday 18th May 1981											as at 30th April 1981											as at close of business on Monday 18th May 1981											as at 30th April 1981											Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 30.4.81 (base=100)										
Total Assets less current liabilities (£ million)											Geographical Spread											Total Assets less current liabilities (£ million)											Geographical Spread											Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 30.4.81 (base=100)										
Company											Company											Company											Company											Company										
Share Price (pence)											Share Price (pence)											Share Price (pence)											Share Price (pence)											Share Price (pence)										
Yield (%)											Yield (%)											Yield (%)											Yield (%)											Yield (%)										
Net Asset Value (pence)											Net Asset Value (pence)											Net Asset Value (pence)											Net Asset Value (pence)											Net Asset Value (pence)										
UK (%)											UK (%)											UK (%)											UK (%)											UK (%)										
Nth. Amer. (%)											Nth. Amer. (%)											Nth. Amer. (%)											Nth. Amer. (%)											Nth. Amer. (%)										
Japan (%)											Japan (%)											Japan (%)											Japan (%)											Japan (%)										
Other (%)											Other (%)											Other (%)											Other (%)											Other (%)										
Gearing Factor (base=100)											Gearing Factor (base=100)											Gearing Factor (base=100)											Gearing Factor (base=100)											Gearing Factor (base=100)										
Total Return over 5 years to 30.4.81 (base=100)											Total Return over 5 years to 30.4.81 (base=100)											Total Return over 5 years to 30.4.81 (base=100)											Total Return over 5 years to 30.4.81 (base=100)											Total Return over 5 years to 30.4.81 (base=100)										
VALUATION MONTHLY											VALUATION MONTHLY											VALUATION MONTHLY											VALUATION MONTHLY											VALUATION MONTHLY										
198	ALLIANCE TRUST	265	5.7	383	55	35	5	5	96	174	43	Ivory & Sims Ltd. (contd.)	154	0.0	151	54	43	—	3	85	1	43	Ivory & Sims Ltd. (contd.)	154	0.0	151	54	43	—	3	85	1	43	Ivory & Sims Ltd. (contd.)	154	0.0	151	54	43	—	3	85	1	43	Ivory & Sims Ltd. (contd.)									
164	British Investment Trust	154	6.9	256	65	28	6	1	96	164	44	Independent Investment Co.	95	1.0	106	12	85	—	3	100	352	44	Independent Investment Co.	95	1.0	106	12	85	—	3	100	352	44	Independent Investment Co.	95	1.0	106	12	85	—	3	100	352	44	Independent Investment Co.									
36	First Scottish American Trust	121	5.4	170	61	26	12	1	102	164	37	Kleinwortson Ltd.	49	6.9	72	59	26	9	6	96	186	36	Kleinwortson Ltd.	49	6.9	72	59	26	9	6	96	186	36	Kleinwortson Ltd.	49	6.9	72	59	26	9	6	96	186	36	Kleinwortson Ltd.									
18	Grange Trust	133	4.0	166	68	25	7	8	106	203	36	Brunner Investment Trust	51	4.9	107	63	29	9	9	100	1	36	Brunner Investment Trust	51	4.9	107	63	29	9	9	100	1	36	Brunner Investment Trust	51	4.9	107	63	29	9	9	100	1	36	Brunner Investment Trust									
93	Great Northern Investment Trust	131	7.2	189	70	15	7	8	95	191	45	Charter Trust & Agency	72	6.3	108	62	24	8	6	99	1	45	Charter Trust & Agency	72	6.3	108	62	24	8	6	99	1	45	Charter Trust & Agency	72	6.3	108	62	24	8	6	99	1	45	Charter Trust & Agency									
114	Investors Capital Trust	117	3.7	164	43	34	14	9	104	181	56	English & New York Trust	92	6.3	135	59	28	6	7	98	177	56	English & New York Trust	92	6.3	135	59	28	6	7	98	177	56	English & New York Trust	92	6.3	135	59	28	6	7	98	177	56	English & New York Trust									
10	New Dairies Oil Trust	87	0.0	102	1	93	—	6	100	1	6	Family Investment Trust	120	7.2	136	97	—	—	2	100	1	6	Family Investment Trust	120	7.2	136	97	—	—	2	100	1	6	Family Investment Trust	120	7.2	136	97	—	—	2	100	1	6	Family Investment Trust									
184	Northern American Trust Co.	132	5.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	Joe Holdings	116	6.4	90	75	12	9	4	102	1	5	Joe Holdings	116	6.4	90	75	12	9	4	102	1	5	Joe Holdings	116	6.4	90	75	12	9	4	102	1	5	Joe Holdings									
26	RIT Ltd.	358	4.3	479	65	17	1	1	78	266	74	London Prudential Investment Trust	74	6.1	149	69	18	7	6	95	241	74	London Prudential Investment Trust	74	6.1	149	69	18	7	6	95	241	74	London Prudential Investment Trust	74	6.1	149	69	18	7	6	95	241	74	London Prudential Investment Trust									
15	River Plate & General Investment Trust	127	5.9	164	75	8	—	17	95	247	65	Merchants Trust	97	6.1	141	56	29	8	7	97	1	65	Merchants Trust	97	6.1	141	56	29	8	7	97	1	65	Merchants Trust	97	6.1	141	56	29	8	7	97	1	65	Merchants Trust									
15	xSaver & Prosper Limited Investment Trust	119	—	308	100	—	—	—	152	173	74	Lazard Bros. & Co. Ltd.	156	5.8	233	58	39	6	7	98	184	74	Lazard Bros. & Co. Ltd.	156	5.8	233	58	39	6	7	98	184	74	Lazard Bros. & Co. Ltd.	156	5.8	233	58	39	6	7	98	184	74	Lazard Bros. & Co. Ltd.									
132	Scottish Investment Trust	138	4.5	194	44	35	7	14	99	185	65	Raeburn Investment Trust	124	5.1	170	43	39	10	8	97	171	65	Raeburn Investment Trust	124	5.1	170	43	39	10	8	97	171	65	Raeburn Investment Trust	124	5.1	170	43	39	10	8	97	171	65	Raeburn Investment Trust									
132	Scottish Northern Investment Trust	112	4.4	147	59	35	2	14	100	182	51	Romney Trust	146	5.5	208	56	33	7	4	93	172	51	Romney Trust	146	5.5	208	56	33	7	4	93	172	51	Romney Trust	146	5.5	208	56	33	7	4	93	172	51	Romney Trust									
153	Scottish United Investors	69	3.7	80	35	37	9	19	104	185	25	St. Andrew Trust	149	6.0	210	61	28	8	5	97	173	25	St. Andrew Trust	149	6.0	210	61	28	8	5	97	173	25	St. Andrew Trust	149	6.0	210	61	28	8	5	97	173	25	St. Andrew Trust									
66	Second Alliance Trust	225	5.4	332	56	34	5	5	99	176	14	Scottish Eastern Investment Trust	82	5.7	119	53	33	10	4	101	176	14	Scottish Eastern Investment Trust	82	5.7	119	53	33	10	4	101	176	14	Scottish Eastern Investment Trust	82	5.7	119	53	33	10	4	101	176	14	Scottish Eastern Investment Trust									
4	Shires Investment Co.	157	10.3	159	100	—	—	—	97	192	31	Scottish Ontario Investment Co.	78	5.8	110	52	34	11	3	97	163	31	Scottish Ontario Investment Co.	78	5.8	110	52	34	11	3	97	163	31	Scottish Ontario Investment Co.	78	5.8	110	52	34	11	3	97	163	31	Scottish Ontario Investment Co.									
109	United States Debenture Corporation	110	7.2	156	71	29	—	—	101	166	73	Securities Trust of Scotland	107	6.5	166	56	36	11	3	106	174	73	Securities Trust of Scotland	107	6.5	166	56	36	11	3	106	174	73	Securities Trust of Scotland	107	6.5	166	56	36	11	3	106	174	73	Securities Trust of Scotland									
165	Baillie Gifford & Co.	155	4.9	217	40	39	11	10	105	179	65	Murray Johnstone Ltd.	76	4.3	105	49	31	11	9	104	193	65	Murray Johnstone Ltd.	76	4.3	105	49	31	11	9	104	193	65	Murray Johnstone Ltd.	76	4.3	105	49	31	11	9	104	193	65	Murray Johnstone Ltd.									
82	Scottish Mortgage & Trust	73	4.6	100	38	40	12	10	105	185	95	Murray Caledonian Investment Trust	89	3.4	96	46	35	11	8	102	185	95	Murray Caledonian Investment Trust	89	3.4	96	46	35	11	8	102	185	95	Murray Caledonian Investment Trust	89	3.4	96	46	35	11	8	102	185	95	Murray Caledonian Investment Trust									
20	Monks Investment Trust	70	1.3	79	4	89	—	7	99	164	65	Murray Clydebank Investment Trust	235	2.3	192	58	23	8	11	112	197	65	Murray Clydebank Investment Trust	235	2.3	192	58	23	8	11	112	197	65	Murray Clydebank Investment Trust	235	2.3	192	58	23	8	11	112	197	65	Murray Clydebank Investment Trust									
58	Winterbottom Energy Trust	67	4.5	100	61	14	10	15	108	203	103	Murray Glasgow Investment Trust	83	3.0	113	38	32	14	16	101	187	103	Murray Glasgow Investment Trust	83	3.0	113	38	32	14	16	101	187	103	Murray Glasgow Investment Trust	83	3.0	113	38	32	14	16	101	187	103	Murray Glasgow Investment Trust									
36	Drayton Montagu Parkdale Management	96	4.0	136	44	29	12	15	100	164	35	Murray Northern Investment Trust	84	4.1	121	49	33	11	7	101	186	35	Murray Northern Investment Trust	84	4.1	121	49	33	11	7	101	186	35	Murray Northern Investment Trust	84	4.1	121	49	33	11	7	101	186	35	Murray Northern Investment Trust									
10	British Industrial & Gen. Investment Trust	151	4.7	191	49	13	17	21	93	1	149	Rivermoor Management Services Ltd.	93	5.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Rivermoor Management Services Ltd.	93	5.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Rivermoor Management Services Ltd.	93	5.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Rivermoor Management Services Ltd.										
4	City & Foreign Investment Trust	83	0.0	88	1	99	—	—	95	1	44	London Trust	72	6.9	93	50	39	2	11	100	218	44	London Trust	72	6.9	93	50	39	2	11	100	218	44	London Trust	72	6.9	93	50	39	2	11	100	218	44	London Trust									
11	Colonial Securities Trust	52	8.2	75	77	12	3	8	119	1	21	Moorside Trust	22	6.9	93	50	39	2	11	100	218	21	Moorside Trust	22	6.9	93	50	39	2	11	100	218	21	Moorside Trust	22	6.9	93	50	39	2	11	100	218	21	Moorside Trust									
66	Drayton Commercial Investment Co.	162	6.2	239	57	13	9	31	96	1	44	River and Mercantile Trust	139	7.7	178	75	2	6	17	95	223	44	River and Mercantile Trust	139	7.7	178	75	2	6	17	95	223	44	River and Mercantile Trust	139	7.7	178	75	2	6	17	95	223	44	River and Mercantile Trust									
91	Drayton Consolidated Investment Co.	177	6.1	259	58	11	12	19	95	1	30	J. Henry Schroder Wagge Group	191	4.6	272	51	23	8	3	95	194	30	J. Henry Schroder Wagge Group	191	4.6	272	51	23	8	3	95	194	30	J. Henry Schroder Wagge Group	191	4.6	272	51	23	8	3	95	194	30	J. Henry Schroder Wagge Group									
11	Drayton Far Eastern Trust	80	2.2	92	14	—	25	61	97	1	42	Abdowen Investment Trust	208	4.9	298	49	40	7	4	98	194	42	Abdowen Investment Trust	208	4.9	298	49	40	7	4	98	194	42	Abdowen Investment Trust	208	4.9	298	49	40	7	4	98	194	42	Abdowen Investment Trust									
104	Drayton Premier Investment Trust	222	6.6	328	58	14	15	13	93	1	69	Broadstone Investment Trust	276	5.4	394	57	40	—	3	101	185	69	Broadstone Investment Trust	276	5.4	394	57	40	—	3	101	185	69	Broadstone Investment Trust	276	5.4	394	57	40	—	3	101	185	69	Broadstone Investment Trust									
19	English and International Trust	123	5.8	179	63	18	6	13	93	1	43	Continental & Industrial Trust	242	4.1	347	39	44	9	8	94	187	43	Continental & Industrial Trust	242	4.1	347	39	44	9	8	94	187	43	Continental & Industrial Trust	242	4.1	347	39	44	9	8	94	187	43	Continental & Industrial Trust									
7	Montagu Boston Investment Trust	62	2.4	74	1	99	—	—	86	1	107	Trans-Oceanic Trust	143	4.0	184	52	35	5	8	93	253	107	Trans-Oceanic Trust	143	4.0	184	52	35	5	8	93	253	107	Trans-Oceanic Trust	143	4.0	184	52	35	5	8	93	253	107	Trans-Oceanic Trust									
18	xCity & Commercial	292	—	357	97	3	—	—	134	261	13	Stewart Fund Managers Ltd.	44	5.4	48	3	1	—	91	100	111	13	Stewart Fund Managers Ltd.	44	5.4	48	3	1	—	91	100	111	13	Stewart Fund Managers Ltd.	44	5.4	48	3	1	—	91	100	111	13	Stewart Fund Managers Ltd.									
17	xDualinvest	495	—	610	82	5	1	13	130	1	65	Scottish American Investment Co.	143	4.0	184	52	35	5	8	93	253	65	Scottish American Investment Co.	143	4.0																													

TRAVEL

A shameless gourmand's tour de France

BY FRANK LIPSUS

HOLIDAYMAKERS will boast of having cycled strenuously over unfamiliar terrain, some will even brag about pedalling a tennis racket; even a simple visit to another city these days has to be encumbered with guide books and unrelenting ambitions. Do we live in an age so preoccupied with health that we have lost the art of self-indulgent self-indulgence?

In the months that we pored over the Guide Michelin of France to find a suitable mix of one, two, and three-star restaurants, we told friends we were planning a gastronomic tour and would report back on the Michelin rating system after the trip. We had decided to eat our way round France and prove to ourselves how perfectly the country is organised for self-indulgence.

We were shameless enough to match the recommendations of the Guide Michelin with those of the Relais et Châteaux de Campagne, a loose association of independent innkeepers. By choosing the Michelin stars among the chateaux and relais, we could stay where we ate.

Our plan was to arrive for dinner, eat until we could eat no more and then trundle off to bed. The next morning we could wake up late, have a big, au-lait, wolf down croissants with home-made jams, pack up and move on. The afternoon-length drive would be enough to revive the appetite; the sight-seeing, a passable excuse for exercise and further indulgence.

Leaving Paris at noon on Sunday, we were able to visit Chartres, Orleans and Tours before arriving at 7 Chateau d'Artigny in Montbazon. In the middle of the afternoon, we stopped for a tour of Chateau d'Artigny. Though not among the most famous chateaux, it does have a guided tour through its stately rooms, Gobelin tapestries and fleur-de-lis painted walls. The Indre river, which runs behind Chateau d'Artigny, led us half the way to Roanne, our next destination, where the famous Hotel des Freres Troisgros is comfortably and unexpectedly situated across from the industrial town's railway station.

Less than an hour from Lyon, Roanne was the perfect starting point to spend some time in France's second city before following the Rhone another 60 miles to the heart of the vineyard region. By the third day we had reached Avignon and the Priore across the river in Villeneuve, a town founded as a Benedictine monastery in the 14th century. It prospered as a home of cardinals during the pope's tenure at Avignon, only to be destroyed after the French Revolution.

We decided to stay in Provence two nights and so moved the next day only a few miles south of Avignon to the hilltop Auberge de Naves, which is surrounded by its own vineyards. The extra day of relaxation in the southern sun-

shine meant hurrying back north, but using the autoroute, we got to Burgundy well before sitting down to a three-star dinner at Lameloise in Chagny. The next day there was plenty of time to wander round Beaune, try a disappointing wine tasting at the March aux Vins (where many of the wines listed for tasting had been swapped for a rather thin 1974 vintage), and visit Dijon with its history of Burgundian wealth and culture. It was a short distance to our last evening— and meal—in Avallon before setting off for the easy two-hour drive back to Paris one week later.

Half way through the trip we had a chance to compare notes with another gastronomic tourist. Our room at the Auberge de Naves had a bound volume of *Esquire Magazine* from 1959. Reassuring us that our own expectations and fears were not unique, the December issue featured a piece on how to "be an epicure and diet." Thinking of the caloric impact of such a trip snacks of going to the opera in earnings. But we understand.

We started out with sufficient apprehension to go gingerly at the first dinner, a one-star, five-course feast at Chateau d'Artigny. We had decided to leave at least something on the plate with each course. I broke my resolve on the second course, a thick eel steak from the Indre River, behind the

chateau, cooked with grapes and nuts in a tangy white sauce. It was unique, the eel itself so meaty and complemented by a sauce that would have been delicious in its own.

The next night at Troisgros we had no hope of holding back, in spite of the warning of seven courses to be served, not including the hors d'oeuvres that came with the menu. And then there we were, reading the *Esquire* article just having consumed a six-course meal—including a selection of six sorbets from the Auberge de Naves' own five-star kitchen. *Esquire* recommended eight rules for its gourmet diet, including "balance your meal carefully... don't touch bread and butter... taste your sauce, don't eat it... little cheese and no dessert... not much wine... no other alcohol... eat only once a day."

To each his own. My wife and I preferred to have a run in the morning before breakfast and do a few situps before dinner rather than discipline our appetites. Miss croissants or sweets. Enjoying the local wines was as much a part of the change of locale as the cheeses and the weather. Forgoing sweets was as likely as having no wine, both of which seemed uncommon, if not foolishly abstemious.

Our own rating of the Michelin Guide's advice was that it was too severe. In spite of the three-star restaurant, Troisgros was so large, and should eventually be about eight inches apart but the final thinning should be delayed until the stones have formed as much as possible. The only way to be sure about the stones is to cut a typical fruit open and see what is happening.

Though pruning plays its part in keeping trees in good trim, it is winter pruning that is most effective in restoring vigour to trees that have become weak through overcropping or starvation. Summer pruning can actually reduce vigour by depriving trees of foliage at a time when it is most active in manufacturing food. That is why it is so valuable for trained trees as it restricts their size and at the same time checks their root growth by reducing the food sent back to them. In this way trees can be kept neat and small without the embarrassing growth that might follow similarly restrictive pruning applied only in winter.

The method of summer pruning used for apples, pears, sweet cherries and plums, all of which continue to bear for years on the same branches, is quite different from that used for peaches, nectarines and Morello cherries, which bear on year-old growth. For the former all new side growths from the main branches are shortened to about five leaves each during July and August. If very neat trees are required these summer pruned stems can be further shortened to about an inch in autumn or winter after the leaves have fallen and at the same time any young growth from fruiting clusters, or spurs, may be removed completely.

This will not do at all for peaches, nectarines or Morello cherries as almost all the growth that might fruit the following year will be removed. So instead a gradual thinning process starts in June, mainly a fingers and thumb job of pinching out some of the young shoots where the trees are crowded but allowing sufficient to remain unchecked to grow on to sturdy stems that will flower

and fruit the following year. In the winter as many as possible of the old stems that have borne a crop should be cut out but not at the expense of the good young growth that has been retained for cropping. This system can be applied to bush trees in the open as well as to trees trained against walls, fences or other supports.

Disease control is important not only because fungi may spoil the appearance of the fruit, or even destroy it completely but also because attacked leaves cannot function fully and so again trees will be deprived of energy at a vital time. Scab and mildew are the two diseases most likely to be troublesome with apples and pears, the first producing black patches on the leaves which may rapidly spread and cause premature leaf fall and mildew enveloping leaves in a powdery white mould. Both diseases can be prevented by spraying about once every three weeks in summer with benomyl or bupirimate, the former marketed retail as Benomyl and bupirimate in combination with triforine as Nimrod-T.

Failure to provide for the needs of fruit trees during these critical months is one of the major causes of biennial bearing to which some varieties are particularly susceptible. Apple Laxton's Superb is a notorious offender, producing a fine crop one year and none the next. There is no need for this to happen if trees are properly looked after.

Adequate feeding is the first essential. The best time to feed fruit trees is in February or March with a good compound fertiliser followed by a top-dressing of manure or compost but if this was not done it is still not too late to put things right. However, as the food is now required immediately, the fertiliser chosen must either be of a readily soluble kind, or be well washed in with water if there is not enough rain to do the job, or better still, be applied suitably diluted as a liquid feed. The drawback to

liquid feeding is that, as it is instantly available, one cannot give sufficient at any time to last for more than ten days or so, but in a garden this is not usually the serious problem it certainly would be in an orchard.

Fertilisers chosen for liquid feeding must be either readily soluble, or that there is no danger of drugs being left at the bottom of the can to accumulate into a solution far too strong for the unfortunate roots that eventually receive them, or they might be liquid fertilisers which have only to be diluted with the requisite amount of water.

Nitrogen is the most essential element at the moment but potash will be required soon and since, so far as I know, it is impossible to buy a suitable fertiliser which contains only these two plant foods it will be most sensible to buy a balanced compound fertiliser containing nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. The phosphoric acid will certainly do the fruit trees any harm and it will maintain the fertility of the soil for other crops, including grass, which may be growing beneath the trees.

One very good way of preventing biennial bearing is to relieve the fruit trees of some of their flower clusters on the year when they are carrying a lot so that energy is saved to produce a new lot of flower buds for the following year. But now many clusters should be removed a matter for experiment as it may differ from garden to garden and variety to variety. I would suggest taking one cluster out of every three from all those trees that missed fruiting last year but are putting on a bit of display this year. It may not be enough but at least it will be a step in the right direction.

Thinning of the young fruits is another method of reducing some of the load and at the same time improving the size of the fruits, but this may not always be an advantage. With apples great size is only desirable with culinary varieties since most people prefer dessert apples of medium size. With pears it does not seem to matter how big the fruits are even for dessert, and so thinning can be more drastic.

However, all thinning of apples and pears should be delayed for a few weeks yet as there is always some natural fall of fruits in June. Until one is quite certain how much is going to remain on the trees it is unwise to do much more than remove the fruits that are obviously damaged or deformed.

Real thinning can be delayed until midsummer and then the degree of reduction will depend to a considerable extent on variety. Dessert apple trees may be allowed to carry as many as two fruits per cluster with as little as three inches between clusters if the trees are in good condition but if they are weak the fruits should be thinned more. Large cooking apples should be reduced to one per cluster with at least six inches between the fruits and this is also the kind of spacing for large pears.

The most economical way to thin gooseberries is to leave it until the most forward fruits are large enough to be used in pies and to go on thinning gradually until only a few are left to attain full size. Peaches need plenty of room, more so than nectarines which rarely

MOTORING

4-wheel drive delight

BY STUART MARSHALL

FOUR DRIVEN wheels are often—some might say always—better than two. You may need them to climb a steep, snowy hill, haul a horsebox across a muddy field, or simply to exploit safely the full performance of a powerful car on a wet and winding road. As Audi have proved with their four-wheel drive Quattro (this column, March 28) permanently engaged all-wheel drive has a calming effect on a car with muscle enough to be a potential handful in low grip conditions.

But first, a simpler kind of all-wheel drive car—the Subaru 4WD. This has recently become available as an estate or pick-up with 1.8 litre as opposed to the previous 1.6 litre, engine and a choice of high or low range in four-wheel drive.

Normally, it is a front-drive car. When you need more traction, you dip the clutch and pull up a small lever. That puts the power through to the rear wheels, too, in high range at any speed up to 50 mph, and in low range at up to 20 mph. Subaru call it an all-road car to make the point that it is not an all-terrain vehicle like a Land-Rover. Even so, especially when in low range, it copes with vile conditions underfoot.

Unwisely, I drove one at night down a track I had frequently walked and ridden along. What I didn't know was that timber trees had been working there recently and had cut it into 18 in deep ruts. The Subaru fell into them and stuck, resting on its belly and spinning its wheels in water and slime. A friend of mine pulled me out with his tractor next morning. "You'll be needing me again," he said, and waited

Creditable...

That iniquitous and ultimately self-defeating motor trade habit of slapping a 15p or 20p service charge on the cost of petrol bought by credit card seems to be on the wane. Many filling stations are now advertising that they make no charge. Esso, who have never done so at the outlets they control directly, encourage their independent dealers to take a similarly enlightened view. As a senior Esso executive said to me last week: "No other trade tries to penalise customers who buy by credit card. I can't see why filling stations should be any different." And nor, I suggest, can any of the millions of British motorists who buy petrol by the tankful by Barclaycard or Access.



The Subaru 180GL 4WD estate. Dual-range four-wheel drive transmission and enough muscle to pull a two-horse trailer

as I turned and headed back up the slope toward the main road.

He was amazed (I was merely impressed) at the way the Subaru, avoiding the deepest ruts, swept through the mud and regained the highway without even looking like sticking again. Later, he used it to carry three passengers and tow a two-horse trailer laden with a hunter and a pony in a hilly part of Sussex. He was so pleased with the way it transported over two tons of trailer, animals and people that he went out and ordered one. And so has a mutual friend who was finding his 1.4-15 mpg. Range Rover (the mainstay to pull a horsebox) too thirsty and bulky to use as a car.

On the road, the Subaru feels a bit roly-poly on fast corners because of its above-average ground clearance and there are times when hard acceleration in low gear can make the steering twitch slightly. But the four-wheel drive does make a smooth out nicely as one accelerates, it cruises at 70 mph and just reaches 90 mph and returns between 30 and 35 mpg on two star.

It feels strong and solid and rides well, four-up. The 52 inch wide (though only 36 inch between wheel arches) load platform extends from 34 ins long to 61 ins when the back seat is folded down. Interior equipment is on the customarily lavish Japanese scale and the on-the-road price is around £5,800. The Subaru is not a Range Rover equivalent but at less than half the capital and running costs, it makes a good substitute, especially now it has dual range transmission when in four-wheel drive. It is a remarkably effective vehicle and there is nothing else like it at present.

Another all-wheel drive vehicle of a totally different kind that I have driven recently is an Opel Senator executive saloon modified by FF Developments of Coventry. FF stands for Ferguson Formula, brainchild of the late Harry Ferguson, the farsighted if at times eccentric inventor. His three-point hydraulic linkage changed the farm tractor from being a sort of mechanical horse into a mobile power source that has literally revolutionised agriculture.

He hoped that his four-wheel drive transmission with a centralised anti-lock braking system would similarly revolutionise the automotive industry, but it came ahead of its time. The only car ever to be fitted with the system as standard was the Jensen FF in the mid-1960s. Good though it was, it failed commercially because it was too expensive—almost as much as a Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow.

But the concept is alive and well. Much unpublished development has been going on at Coventry and the results are beginning to show. The Opel Senator FF was in some ways an even more impressive car than the Audi Quattro I have enthused over. I shall be looking at it in detail in a week or two.

TRAVEL

TAKE AN ACTIVITY HOLIDAY AT A FAMOUS UNIVERSITY

From £32 per week
Yes, from only £32 per person per week, including rail travel from your local station. Or take your car and pay from only £14 per week. Ideal for the whole family.

ABERDEEN • COLCHESTER • PORTSMOUTH
SOUTHAMPTON • CARDIFF • EDGEMONT
or SWANSEA

Accommodation in modern, well-equipped and self-contained flats with shower/bath and all facilities. Mostly with shop, launderette, cafeteria, TV lounge and bar. Use of wide choice of sports facilities (eg gymnasium, swim pool, tennis or squash courts).

GREAT DEALS OVERSEAS TOO — in Spain and Austria. Prices from only £29 per person per week including ferry crossing!

SPACES AVAILABLE AT MOST POPULAR DATES
For free details send to: Take Five, Dept FT, Enbrook House, Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SG. Or telephone TODAY 0303 30401.

BUSINESS TRAVEL

The most competitive prices to Hong Kong and all points East. Complete facilities, come back when YOU want!

Twinkl 2A Thayer St.
London W1
Tel: 01-497 3361

Remember Paris

— Fiona Richmond
For a free copy of this charming and colourful letter to a friend together with our brochure on individual inclusive holidays to that beautiful city, write or phone:

TIME OFF: 24 Chester, Chester, London SW1X 7BL
Tel: 01-235 8070

GENEVA

RESIDENCE DE FRANCE
4 Avenue de France
Tel: 022/21.14.78

Beautiful, first class, air-conditioned residential furnished apartments and studios. Fully equipped kitchen, daily maid service. Weekly and monthly rentals.

Excellent location.

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS
& TRAVEL
APPEAR EVERY SATURDAY

Contact:
RICHARD JONES
ON 01-248 5122

HOTELS

First Class
HOTEL OLIVELLA AULAC

CH-6922 Morcote
Lago di Lugano
Tel. 0041/91/69 17 31
Tel. 79535

— Dr. Arnoldo, Christine, Roger

RONNIE RONALDES *** Hotel, Germany, Tel. 0601 33064, 5 spots, Tennis, Pool, Children's Play Area, All rooms Full Bath, CTV, Family, Lift, Bars, Band, 15 acres. Open all year.

Save hundreds of Pounds on the car you buy from the U.S.A.

Just choose from the wide range of vehicles AMERICA BY CAR has to offer. From CADILLAC to PONTIAC, Buick, Oldsmobile, Chevrolet, Ford, AMC, or even a hard-working 4 wheel drive pickup—the choice is yours! Full UK Warranty cover and financing.

For further information Telephone 01-497 3361

AMERICA BY CAR LTD, 111 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP

ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE LONDON Business Studies Course Starting September 1981 Resident and Day Students 2 Arkwright Road, London NW3 6AD. Tel: 01-435 9831 Telex: 25589

FOLLOW THE SUN AROUND THE WORLD, SAILING JAN 17.

Next winter is cancelled when you board the Queen Elizabeth 2 for her 1982 World Cruise.

She leaves on January 17 for the warm waters of the Caribbean, then crosses the South Atlantic and heads east for the Orient, spending most of January, February and March in the tropics.

Ports-of-call include some of the world's most famous liners such as Rio, Cape Town, Hong Kong, Kagoshima, Honolulu and Acapulco along with (Atlas at the ready) newcomers like Belem, Madras, Kelang, Pattaya, Pusan and LaHaina.

Between ports, you'll travel in style on the world's most famous liner.

The QE2 has seven bars, four restaurants (one sitting for all passengers), three dance floors, a cinema, theatre, casino, nightclub and four swimming pools.

Every stateroom is air-conditioned and twin-bedded with its own bathroom, radio and telephone, and with a steward and stewardess on call.

What better way to enjoy an early summer? Round-the-world prices start at £5,570. But if you can't manage the whole cruise, join us en route for a fraction of the price.

Our brochure explains everything. Phone (01) 491 3930 or write to Cunard, South Western House, Southampton SO9 1ZA, or see your travel agent.

QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

CUNARD LINE LIMITED
UN INVITO

"AN INVITATION" by ITALY's best known hotels:

DANIELI—Venice
EUROPA & REGINA—Venice
EXCELSIOR—Rome
LE GRAND HOTEL—Rome
EXCELSIOR—Florence
PALACE—Milan
PRINCIPE & SAVOIA—Milan
PARK—Siena
CAVALIERI—Pisa
DES ILES BORROMEE—Stresa
DUCHE D'ADRIANO—Trieste
VILLA CIPRIANI—Naples
EXCELSIOR—Naples
COLOMBIA—Genoa

3 Nights—£25 p.p.
7 Nights—£170 p.p.
Inclusive tours by air or car also available.
(*Includes half board)

BROMPTON TRAVEL LTD.
200 Walton Street, London SW2
01-584 6143

ATOL 10388

Charisma among the faceless ones

THE VICTORY of Frank Urban (Fuzzy) Zoeller in last week's Colonial National Invitation Tournament in Fort Worth, Texas was made even more significant when one of the many who chased him vainly over Sunday's rain-delayed final 36 holes, Lee Trevino, pulled out of Jack Nicklaus's invitational Memorial Tournament this week with back trouble.

Zoeller, 36, played his best golf in 83 degrees heat and a stiflingly humid wind alongside his chief rivals, Hale Irwin and Tom Kite, who finished a well beaten second and tied for third respectively, was not expected to hold together over that exacting distance because of the chronic back trouble that has plagued him since the second of his two tournament victories—in the U.S. Masters of 1978. For much of the painful intervening period Zoeller has worn a corset, but after recent strict dieting he discovered that the subsequent weight loss minimised the restriction. Zoeller's emergence had progressed along classic lines

GOLF

BEN WRIGHT

after he topped the class in the U.S. PGA Tour qualifying school of 1974. Between 1975 and 1979 he won \$7, 852, \$76, \$109 and \$186,000 annually. But last year, despite his courage in the face of almost constant pain, Zoeller went winless and there were many who started to call his extraordinary Masters victory a flash in the pan. He managed to amass \$95,000 thanks to several top ten finishes, but until last week's win he had earned only \$14,000 this year in 14 tournaments and was languishing in 97th place in the money list. A man who has achieved startling popularity as the clown prince of world golf in Trevino's undisputed kingdom was in danger of being lost in obscurity.

Zoeller, who is six months short of his 30th birthday, is desperately important to professional golf as Trevino and Nicklaus reach the twilight of their momentous careers in their forties. It hurts me to use that overworked cliché to say that Zoeller is a character, but the game is desperately short of characters who possess that indefinable quality that communicates itself to their audiences despite the fact, at least in Nicklaus's case, that verbal contact is minimal. Arnold Palmer, the single most charismatic professional golfer of his lifetime, never needed to talk at his armies of fans when making one of the charges that made him famous. The unfettered violence of his attack on the golf ball that had endeared him particularly to the blue-

collar worker was sufficient to attract his fans in droves. When Palmer hitched up his trousers in that now time-honoured gesture as he prepared to hit or putt with unique boldness his army were to be a man transported by delight.

Likewise Zoeller, who in the manner patented by Trevino constantly laughs, jokes and cajoles his audiences the world over, does brutal things to the golf ball that amaze and delight all who watch him. He is Palmer and Trevino rolled into one happy fellow who is the darling of the hackers. For instance in the third and final rounds of the Colonial "my" television hole, the 191 yards 16th, was actually playing at a stretched-to-the-limit length of 193 and 201 yards respectively. On each occasion Zoeller hit the ball within 20 feet of the hole with a seven iron for a birdie and then a par three while many of his rivals spent three irons during the day. As Irwin told me later: "Fuzzy is very difficult to play with and against. Even if you make up your mind not to watch what club he chooses it is impossible not to be amazed by his strength and length. On days like this he can make you feel very inadequate."

But it is as a character in an ocean of largely faceless youngsters that Zoeller stands out so excitingly to me. I love to watch golfers with Gene Littler's unfailing but largely silent elegance let the clubs do all the talking for them. Men like Littler and Arnold Palmer, regrettably few of them left—have a charisma all of their own almost despite themselves. But there are so many apparently cloned college kids coming out on tour with their intense, unsmiling faces, their blown dry hair unfailingly in place, who

have nothing to say except to express displeasure, and whose clubs talk a language of an unacknowledged sophistic nature.

I never thought I would be writing this, but golf here and elsewhere desperately needs a villain like Tommy Bolt, someone to hate if you will, rather than a host of faceless ones about whom it is impossible to experience any emotion but contempt. These young men feel that golf owes them a living, but they find it mightily difficult to be even remotely civil to their fans and pro-am partners. Your Commissioner Deane Beman is hell bent on forcing his players to adopt his longed-for Simon Pure image.

Anyone who dares to step out of line is summarily stamped upon. So the potential characters of the game are discouraged to blossom as such, and professional golf as an entertainment grows ever less entertaining.

Tom Watson, the heir apparent to Nicklaus's throne, has so far failed to live up to his charismatic speaking. But I know what fun he can be—away from the golf course. During the 1977 Open championship at Turnberry I invited him and his wife Linda for dinner at the lovely, semi-stately home a crowd of us had rented some 30 odd miles down the coast to the south. Watson, who led the championship at the time, climaxed a singularly entertaining evening by polishing off no less than 18 chocolate eclairs floating in a sea of double cream. It would be exaggerating to say that he had been the life and soul of the party. But he and Linda left well after midnight as if golf and the winning of that championship was of scant significance compared to the fun we had all enjoyed.

Eating outside is fun!

Panel Picnic
Cubans are invited
They're taught
to "grill" their meat
on a "barbecue" machine.
For more information or to book your picnic contact:
Panel Picnic
100, 101 & 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487

BOOKS

Jat gentleman

BY GEORGE MALCOLM THOMSON

Maharaja Suraj Mal, 1707-1763 His Life and Times by K. Natwar-Singh, George Allen and Unwin, £2.50, 136 pages

The decline and fall of the Mughal Empire — like that of other empires — was a time of opportunity for various enterprising and capable men. Clive for instance and the hero of the Maratha-Singh's entertaining biography, Suraj Mal. This soldier-statesman was a Jat, that is to say, one of a Hindu community centred in the country south of Delhi, the son of a modest landowner. In a few years, through personal courage, ability to train cavalry and a considerable streak of political realism, he turned himself from a bandit chief into an important figure in the life of India. It was a time — middle 18th century — when India was much in need of such a man.

On the throne in Delhi, the emperors neither ruled nor reigned. Their department was, says Natwar-Singh, neither gracious nor dignified. The nobles were no better, swollen with aristocratic pride, abandoned to the pleasures of wine, women and tobacco. As one of them said, quoting a Persian poet,

Smoking tobacco is a rare pastime.
An occupation decreasing gloom:
A friend it is in time of solitude,

It is a help to a bad digestion. A bad digestion was, however, the least of the afflictions from which the Mughals suffered. For instance, the emperor Mohammed Shah was "as ignorant of the administration as he was well-informed about sexual perversions." In his time, the business of state, such as it was, was given over to the Queen-Mother, an ex-dancing girl, and her lover, Javid Khan, who must have possessed exceptional charm of mind or body for he laboured under a severe handicap which would have daunted most lovers. He was an eunuch. Government by the Queen-Mother and her paramour caused widespread discontent.

One morning when Javid was about to sit down to his morning meal, a combination of breakfast and luncheon, some Turkish soldiers entered, one of whom stabbed Javid in the liver from behind, crying out, "Take the fruit of your disloyalty." Better days lay ahead? Alas, no. Javid's successors turned out to be worse, and abler, than he. It was fortunate indeed for the Mughals that Suraj Mal emerged from obscurity about this time. His magnificent up-swept moustaches were no doubt symptoms of a fiery temperament, but he had a gift of picking good subordinates. His 12,000 horsemen were often victorious. Their services at a price — a heavy price — might be put at the disposal of emperors. This was especially necessary

when, beyond the mountains, the Afghan Shah Abdali cast an eye on Delhi. Having done so, he decided that it was a push-over. He took the title of Pearl among Pearls and marched on the Imperial capital which was given up to plunder; the royal ladies in the harem were subjected to unspeakable indignities. Abdali sent a sarcastic message to the emperor: "I bestow the empire on you. Visit me tomorrow in full royal state."

In this crisis did Suraj Mal rush to the defence of his insulted sovereign? Not quite. He did not greatly fancy the Afghan's barbarous style of warfare. Accordingly, he shut himself up in impregnable fortresses and sent Abdali a letter dripping with offensive irony, which his admiring biographer regards as a masterpiece of its kind. In the end, Abdali, enraged but not unrewarded, had to retreat to his native mountains. Behind each of his horsemen were ten horses tied nose to tail. Over each horse's back was heaped the loot of Delhi: slaves and harem girls were piled on top of the loot. Before departing, the Afghans left bloody reminders of their visit: human heads were built into pillars. Hindu pilgrims who had come to the holy city of Mathura were at the mercy of Afghan generals who, as Natwar Singh puts it, were "in a sizzling mood" when they reached the town. Moslems



Suraj Mal: from bandit chief to soldier statesman

suffered equally with Hindus. At length, God intervened on the side of the afflicted. An outbreak of cholera broke out in the Afghan army.

It was at that moment that they made for home. With timely aid from the Almighty, Suraj Mal was reckoned to have come well out of the episode. By his own mixture of war and diplomacy, he had expanded the small family estate into a kingdom measuring 200 miles by a hundred.

His end was rather splendid — gloriously slain in battle, his body never found. Six years earlier, Clive had won the battle of Plassey. India was going to be a different place. The pity is that Suraj Mal was not alive to shape its future.

About this paladin of his race, Mr. Natwar-Singh writes with enthusiasm in a style which is on the whole stately, with endearing lapses into the colloquial. The trouble is, however, that the narrative is hard to follow.

Fiction

Loiterer's luck

BY MARTIN SEYMOUR-SMITH

Loitering With Intent by Muriel Spark, Bodley Head, £5.50, 222 pages

Watching Me Watching You by Fay Weldon, Hodder and Stoughton, £5.95, 208 pages

An Easter Egg Hunt by Gillian Freeman, Hamish Hamilton, £5.95, 143 pages

A Start in Life by Anita Brookner, Cape, £5.95, 176 pages

Muriel Spark is not a substantial novelist, but it is marvellous how intelligently entertaining she can be about nothing. The story told in this book is devilishly clever, and the fluency with which it is told is — however, irritating or self-satisfied we may find it — astonishing.

The setting is the London of 1949-50. The starting point is almost the end of the story: the book is mostly concerned with the ten months before Fleur Talbot sat in a Kensington graveyard eating a sandwich. She was at the beginning of that time hired by Sir Quentin Oliver, head of the Autobiographical Association, to help nonentities write their autobiographies. At the same time Fleur is writing her own first novel, *Warmer Chances*.

A Muriel Spark novel of this kind (the best) has the same sort of appeal as a good mystery: it would be wholly unfair to give away the story. I do not think anything is funnier in the book than this initial conception, which I have described, but I dare say a large number of readers will. I cannot blame them, for the author's confidence and charm are so extraordinary as to lead anyone

into believing anything. Fundamentally this novel is dreary, empty and flippant; but it is impossible to ignore Miss Spark's inventiveness, ingenuity and technical assurance. If she had anything to say she would be a major novelist; as it is, one is bound to recommend this for its entertainment value. There can be few novelists who command such a formidable technique.

Fay Weldon possesses an excellent technique, which she has worked at over the years; but she has much more to say than Muriel Spark. *Watching Me Watching You* is a collection of eleven crisp, intelligent and moving stories. Those who are used to her capacity for puncturing masculine pretensions will not be disappointed — "Breakages" is peculiarly devastating as well as disturbing. But, comic though she can be and very frequently is, most of these stories are memorable for their poignancy. There is in this collection a maturity which Miss Spark, for all her brilliance, seems never to have reached. "Alopecia" is a tour de force in which, beneath several layers of irony, a severe and tragic sense of loss is conveyed.

The way in which Fay Weldon works is instructive. She gathers up a mass of clichés, which she has collected with loving care, and hurls them blandly at the reader. As is the case with other good women writers, the result is to remind us that "commonplace places" are not really commonplace at all: the pattern of each set of clichés is unique. Consider how much is said in this small and, surely, infinitely sad paragraph: "We're just the rejects of the world," says Anne to Wendy (a child), and Wendy

believes her, and her mouth grows tight and pouty instead of firm and generous, as it could have been, and her looks are spoiled. Anne is right, that's the trouble of it. Rejects!"

There is a coiled anger in these stories, as in the best of novels, which is the more effective for being good humoured. Moreover, the range is wide. With this volume the publishers reissue *Puffball* in paperback (Coronet), and Miss Weldon's first novel, in hardback: *The Fat Woman's Joke* (1967).

Gillian Freeman has been a workmanlike chronicler — in filmstrips and non-fiction as well as in novels — of the aberrant, the unfamiliar, the sick, the Fascist. In *The Easter Egg Hunt* she has set herself a difficult task and acquitted herself well. She has gone back to the First World War and to the Fairview Academy for Young Ladies; Principal, Madame Pennington.

In a very unusual and original story, Madeleine, 17, her status that of half-pupil, half-relative to the principal, disappears after the girls go out on Easter Sunday morning to hide their decorated Easter eggs — to be searched for by the children of the village.

Has she run away to be near her mother, who is living on the Belgian border; has she had an accident; has she run away with a lover? She does not turn up. Up to the book, which takes us up to 1939, gradually reveals the truth, a strange mixture of the supernatural, fanaticism and fanaticism and adolescent passion.

Gillian Freeman has never done anything like this before, and the result is an extraordinary and carefully observed tale. The



Muriel Spark: confidence and charm

period is uncannily well evoked. The whole has something of the frisson of a Henry James ghost story, and it is quite as good — if not perhaps better — than any of the author's previous nine novels.

A Start in Life is the first novel by Anita Brookner, an international authority on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century painting who was Slade Professor at Cambridge in 1968. It is about a woman trapped by literature, and is thus an ironic contemporary variation on *Madame Bovary*, and many other novels like it.

Dr. Weiss is engaged on her life's work, *Women in Balzac's Novels* (Yone must pause; here to consider in just what sort of intellectual atmosphere she lives), of which the first volume has already appeared. But she likes men, and wants to be free of literature. This is an enormously sophisticated, knowing, often very funny tragedy, pitched at exactly the right note. A most welcome debut. Dr. Weiss is worth at least one more novel; her career is a sad delight.

Vintage Cockburn

BY B. A. YOUNG

Cockburn Sums Up by Claud Cockburn, Quartet Books, £2.50, 269 pages

When I knew Claud Cockburn in the '50s, he was already a legend, and was busy writing pieces recalling how he became one. *Cockburn Sums Up* assembles the parts of the legend and brings it up to date — the life of the man whom Graham Greene, in a foreword, rates as one of the two greatest journalists of the century. (G. K. Chesterton is the other.) Moreover it illustrates how it was done.

In a page on the use of "the facts" in reporting, he gives the wisest journalistic advice I know. There are no facts, you make them. Claud Cockburn commanded events. His cheerful greeting, "Lend me a pound and I'll buy you a drink" is a simple instance. When *The Times* sent him to New York, as he had privately determined they would, the great 1929 recession broke out at once and confirmed his mistrust of the capitalist system (a mistrust he attributes to having sung the *Magnificat* in chapel at school). He returned to London and transferred his loyalties to the

Daily Worker; but at the same time he launched his amazing *Samizdat* commentary. *The Week*, with no publicity and no advertising, and it became required reading for all well-informed people.

He was always on terms with the right people, though not necessarily the people most approved. The BBC invited me one day to take part in "This is Your Life" they were setting up for him. Who else they asked I do not know, but the programme never happened. Friends of Randolph Churchill, if there are any, may agree with his

judgment that Claud Cockburn is "a former associate of the bloody dictator Stalin, a journalist who throughout his career has aided and abetted many of the vilest international political crimes in history and regularly exerted himself to instigate and foment dissension and subversion." At least he has always been honest about what he was doing, and his account of it, goldmine of gleaming anecdote about Geoffrey Dawson and the Times staff, Al Capone, Lord Beaverbrook, Negley Farson, Ernest Hemingway, John Huston and a hundred others, is as funny as it is wise.

One Donne

BY GEORGE WATSON

John Donne: Life, Mind and Art by John Carey, Faber and Faber, £3.50, 303 pages

Prompted by Donne himself, who pronounced himself first a Jack and then a John, it has been tempting to see him as two people: the randy Jack of the love-poems of the 1590s, and the learned Dr. John of St Paul's, the great preacher of the 1620s. Professor John Carey of Oxford, intent to prove there was only one Donne, has written a life-and-works as lively as a good novel and as informative as an encyclopaedia of Renaissance thought. "There weren't two people," the notion gives a strong thematic base to the book, even if it is not utterly convincing. Most of us change radically over half a century, and Carey triumphs here by stressing the connections rather than the discontinuities: an apostate Catholic fascinated by infidelity in love; because guilt-ridden about his own infidelity to Rome — an intriguing hypothesis, that — and a poet whose love-phrases turn up 30 years later in sermons.

The case for continuity involves occasional suppression. Fierce as he was for religious conformity as an ageing cleric, Donne had spoken up boldly in youth for religious tolerance in his third satire, in a moving passage against penal laws that Carey does not quote:

Men do not stand
In so ill case here,
That God hath with his hand
Signed King's blank-charters
To kill whom they hate,
and the *Songs and Sonnets* echo sentiments of infidelity, after all, that many a poet of the age who never changed his church

could admit. But the book lives, and vividly, by surprising us with the story it has to tell: the horrors of public vivisection of religious dissidents in Elizabethan England, unrelentingly described; the terrifying visit to the Tower by a 12-year-old Donne to visit a relative imprisoned there for his faith; the bounding egotism and soaring ambition of the young married man, living in a smelly Surrey cottage after the disastrous marriage of 1601 — disastrous to his worldly hopes, that is — while his admirable wife Ann bore him a dozen children. Odd to think of Donne as a Member of Parliament, too, before he turned cleric in 1615, though as to that there is simply no story to be told.

Professor Carey is not much interested in the suggestion that Donne's youthful conversion from Rome to Canterbury may have been sincere, or at least may have included powerful and increasing elements of religious sincerity. Much of the evidence he quotes, none the less, points that way, including Donne's public advocacy of suicide. *Biathanatos* even contains a breath-taking suggestion that God — or rather Christ — may himself have committed suicide on the Cross. That does not sound much like a secret Roman, and it looks highly dissident, even for a Protestant. My own sense of the evidence here is that Donne felt genuinely puzzled about the identity of the true Church.

"Show me dear Christ, thy spouse," — and eventually took the excusable view that, if no claim to God's favour could be seen as utterly clear, then he was entitled to consult his own self-interest as an aspiring courtier and conform to the national church. That must have been the decision of



John Donne at 18

many thoughtful Englishmen, then and since. What is startling about Donne as a religious poet and later as a preacher is the artifice with which he works. It all out, scattering doubts and dogmas like birdseed through 30 years of poems, pamphlets and sermons. He emerges here, convincingly, as a tough-minded (even occasionally ugly-minded) and energetic self-seeker, and one harshly conservative in many of his convictions about science and theology; but disturbingly original, and never ridiculous. It is odd, and courageous, to write a book about Donne today. He is not now (as he was between the wars) a vague poet, merely a good one. And even the Donne-vogue promoted by Griereson and T. S. Eliot didn't go in for bookish mawkishness, at least in England. More for editors and essays. To call this the best book about Donne, then, which easily is, is not quite the accolade it needs to be. The book spreads out the whole

world of Renaissance thought at your feet like a bright carpet, its patterns at once irreverent and bold, even brutal and lusty. Good to see the old life-and-works formula back in business among academics: it should never have gone away. Professor Carey has rightly committed infidelity against his own Oxford inaugural lecture, where he preached vehemently against critical interpretation, and he here interprets everything in sight. One's first duty to one's own desperate theories is to be disloyal to them. He apostrophises from his own recent protestations, too, that all literary judgments are of necessity subjective, and documents his own in an impressively rational and learned way. So much for theory; the practice, fortunately, forgets theory altogether. The Carey Donne hangs together slightly better, perhaps, than does his evidence for thinking that it all hangs together, and the cynically anonymous fact that he shines out of the dust-jacket in the 16th-century portrait hints that there is more to be said. Donne would have enjoyed this book. But it is not a preacher's face on that young man, still less the expression of a dying cleric who once mounted an urn garbed in a shroud to have himself drawn for death. If the work is a mile milder than Carey's previous books on Milton, Donne and Thackeray, it is still (like them) a war-torn and all-vigilant even, like them, a war-torn and more-wary view. It praises its subject by attacking it, and by showing how it can survive such attacks. That is the Carey way. A fire-cracker of a book, and one to continue the tradition of Donne matters, whether the speaker of love, death, angels and God; and not just because it was Donne's.

Vivat Pompey

BY JOHN ROBERTS

Pompey: The Republican Prince by Peter Greenhalgh, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £18.50, 320 pages

As a general rule, history is written by the winners. To the schoolboy who has had to trudge interminably through Caesar's Civil War, Pompey the Great's chief contribution is as Caesar's unfortunate enemy, whose fortunes are only stated that they further glorify Caesar's own victory. Yet Pompey's role in history was at least as great as Caesar's. In particular, it was equally decisive in shaping what later became known as the Roman Empire.

While still just 23 years old, the young Pompey had already won the sobriquet "the Great", for helping Sulla crush the last Marian forces in the civil war which devastated Roman Italy in the 70s B.C. By the time he was 40 he was, as Dr. Greenhalgh described him in the first volume of this lively biography, the Roman Alexander, a general victorious on three continents. For his next 15 years he was — inasmuch as anyone could be in a regime bleeding to death from corruption and decay — the moderate constitutionalist, Rome's moral ruler, the Republican Prince.

Dr. Greenhalgh's chief success in this letter volume lies in guiding the reader through the

silk and stench of late republican politics. Pompey's drastic action during his sole consulate, his cleansing of corruption and his attacks on bribery, are shown as integral aspects of a leader favouring reform through constitutional means, not as Caesar's case, through revolution and demagoguery. The author's style is straightforward narrative, ensuring the brightness of Pompey's successes is not eclipsed by his final defeat at the hands of his protégé. Pompey's personal attractiveness shines through the work. He was the eastern conqueror who dismissed his armies on return from Asia. Would that Caesar had done the same on return from Gaul!

At 57, finally granted the supreme powers necessary to preserve the republic, Pompey again proved his strategic and diplomatic genius, turning the entire Mediterranean into a theatre of near-total war, persuading even the Senate to abandon Rome's government that preferred exile to subjection.

In tactics, too, he proved he had lost none of the prowess which won Anatolia, Syria and Palestine for Rome. His breakthrough from Dyrrachium forced Caesar into retreat across Greece. But it was a retreat which ended at Pharsalus. Pompey lost only one major battle, but it was his last.

Defeated but not subdued, he sought again to use geography and politics to turn the tables — only to be murdered by Egyptian rulers while under safe conduct.

His work, however, survived. Caesar's legacy of Rome's new master was mixed: the addition of Gaul on the one hand renewed civil war and autocracy on the other. Pompey's legacy was happier: an Asian settlement that formed the basis of Roman rule in the east for seven centuries and a reputation that even Caesar's egotistical memoirs could not douse. All too often, Pompey is portrayed in defeat. What Dr. Greenhalgh has done is to rescue Pompey from the schoolroom.

The hot tip that could stop you getting your fingers burned...

Everyone wants to invest. And today there's no shortage of means to do so. They range from antique silverware to traded options. But the shares of well-run companies remain the best investment generally available.

For most people, of course, that means investing in them through a unit trust.

How else are you going to get the spread of holdings you need, expertly managed, at a price you can afford?

But there are more than 480 unit trusts. Knowing which are which can make a lot of difference.

That's why investment professionals and private investors alike need *The Unit Trust Year Book*, in its revised and updated 1981 edition.

The Unit Trust Year Book 1981 tabulates trusts with their performance figures over the past seven years. It analyses them by investment sector and objective. It describes their current portfolio and management team.

The Unit Trust Year Book also carries a wealth of authoritative articles on topics ranging from how a trust works and how to invest in one, to the latest capital gains tax position.

The Unit Trust Year Book 1981 will be published in May 1981 and will be on general sale at £11.50. But if you accept our offer, detailed on the order coupon below, we will charge you a specially reduced price of £11.00.

What it can't tell you about unit trusts could be stuck under the postage stamp you'll need to send us your order.

ORDER FORM: Please note payment must accompany order

To: The Book Sales Dept., The Financial Times Business Publishing Ltd.,

Minster House, Arthur Street, London EC2A 5AX. Tel: 01-623 1211.

Please send me _____ copy/copies of UNIT TRUST YEAR BOOK 1981 (01319)

at £11.00 each. I enclose a cheque value £_____ or debit my credit card

(Tick choice) ☐ Barclaycard ☐ American Express Card Number _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Job/Title _____ Company _____

Nature of Business _____

Address _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

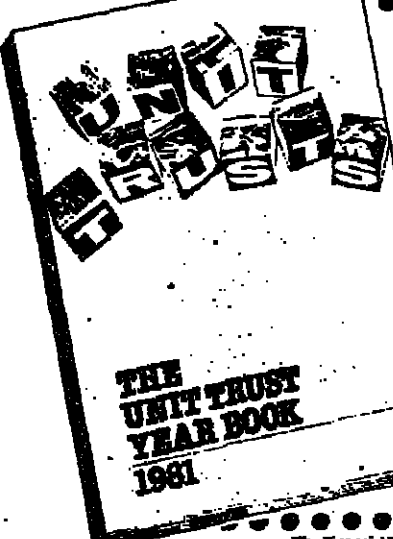
☐ Please tick box if you would like to receive advertising details for our books.

Please allow 28 days for delivery from the date of publication.

Returns are given on books returned in perfect condition within 7 days of receipt.

The Financial Times Business Publishing Ltd. Registered in England No. 180268. Registered Office: Minster House, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF. Bank Account: Midland Bank Ltd. 20 The Strand, London WC2R 0BD. Account No. 5067616.

SPECIAL OFFER VALID UNTIL 29th MAY 1981



Ilkley Literature Festival '81

Two days packed with books and book people including: John Ashbery (USA), Fred Astaire (USA), Edna St. Vincent Millay, George Baker, Brian Groom, Geoffrey Hill, Ian Macmillan, Frank Lentricchia, Margaret Macpherson, Dr. Colin MacLennan, Alan Plater, Peter Redmond, John Sutherland, Robert Wilson, and many more. Write for full programme to: The Festival Office, Ilkley, W. Yorks. LS14 3JG.

Publication of the Financial Times "Private Education" Survey has been postponed to Saturday 13th June, 1981.

HOW TO SPEND IT

by Lucia van der Post

"Where did you get that 'at?"



David Shilling, at 36, Marylebone High Street, London, W1, is the master of the really dramatic, eye-catching hat. Here is a black silk satin "Bird of Paradise" hat with black and white silk bows and claret red feathers. David Shilling doesn't like to mention anything so vulgar as prices—"It's not that we're shy about money," he says, "we make no secret of

Photographs by Trevor Humphries and Hugh Routledge

the fact that our hats are expensive, but some of our customers are women in eminent positions and it just wouldn't do to have the cost widely known. And some women don't want their husbands to know what they've spent. Let's just say that my hats start at somewhere between £80 and £100 and after that there is no limit."

I HAVE IT on the very best authority, straight from that maverick hatter, David Shilling himself, that "the really busy social lady would easily get through two dozen hats in a year." This very busy lady is also, you will be sickened to hear, very organised. She thinks about it all at least six months in advance and in she comes with her stockings and her lipstick and small swatches of fabric seeking fetching little numbers with which to stun her friends. The busy social whirl isn't all fun, you know.

She will be happy to pay anything from £80 upwards for she knows that if she comes to David Shilling she can be sure that she won't meet another hat like her own. She will also get David Shilling's personal attention, which in full flood is almost irresistible.

Hats are his thing and have been ever since he first hit the headlines at 14 when he made one for his mother to go to Ascot. It's taken some time to live that down but now that he has he's known to make some of the most delicious, most original hats in town.

He's almost fanatical about matching a hat to the person ("I don't want to change anyone's personality, I want to draw it out") and has even been known to put unsuitable ones out of sight. Flowered pill-boxes, for instance, he thinks look wonderful on 17-year-olds but "we won't let anybody else have them." He thinks hats are for special occasions and that to wear them every day diminishes their special magic. "If they're not going to make you beautiful, why wear them?" is his philosophy. He believes in experimenting and the new customer to his shop should allow half an hour at the very least. As he puts it, "It's not only which hat to choose, but how you should wear it" and he will take endless trouble in finding just the very thing.

If the price of his hats seems expensive, bear in mind that he will make any hat you choose in any colour, in any fabric that he makes and dyes all his own trimmings and that nowhere else will you see another like it.

David Shilling, like Frederick Fox (by Royal Appointment) and other couture hatters all report that hat business is looking up. It can't be the Royal Wedding (as Frederick Fox points out, "The invitations aren't even out yet!") but appears to be more to do with mood. Even the big department stores, where hat departments have been cloaked in funeral gloom in recent years, report that hats are back in fashion.

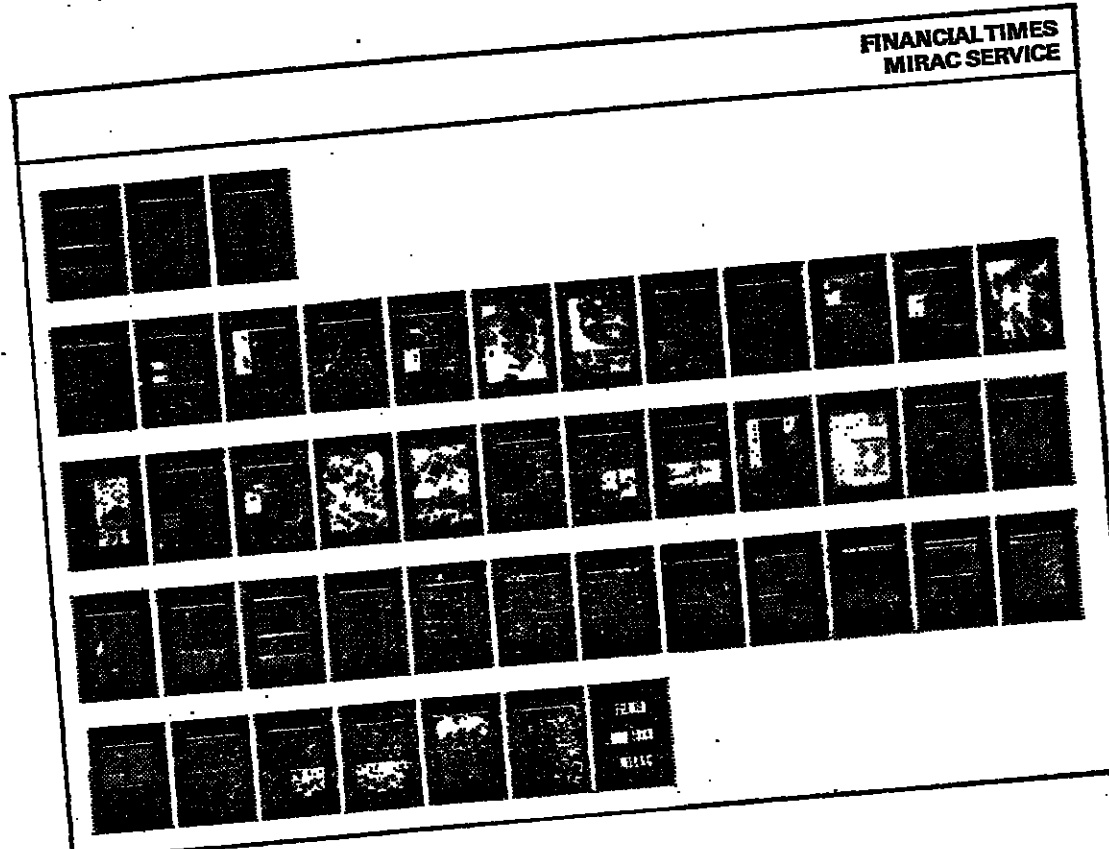
If you can't afford the couture touch then Kate Renwick, buyer of hats at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London, SW1, has some hints on how to choose a cheap hat. Bear in mind that trimmings on model hats are usually entirely stitched by hand, whereas they are mass-produced for the cheaper end of the market—so check them out carefully. Don't always match hats to shoes (as she points out, there's 5-ft-odd between, so why do people think it so important?). Don't go shopping in your jeans—you'll never be able to see how it will look on the day. Watch the colour in a cheap hat—it is usually the surest giveaway and watch how you wear it.



Top left: David Shilling at his best—this is what spending well over £100 on a hat can do for you. Flamboyant, yet infinitely elegant, it is made from finest white and lemon straw and is finished off with a hand-made, hand-painted arm lily. All David Shilling's trimmings are hand-made in his own workrooms. He uses fine silk, feathers, satin, ribbons and never, ever buys-in trimmings from other manufacturers. Top right: a supremely stylish pillbox which is surprisingly flattering to many faces. The crucial thing is to wear it at an angle and to make sure that the hair is smooth and sleek. The hat itself is so distinctive that you don't want too much distraction from the hair. The "crin" veil is the sort of detail you find only on an expensive hat—in cheaper versions the veil would be flopping all over the face while here the stiff nylon veil is cleverly cut to stand away from the head. By Philip Somerville, it is £82 at Harvey

Nichols, Knightsbridge, London, SW1. Bottom left: Catherine Buckley is probably better known for her exuberantly romantic wedding dresses of antique lace or hand-painted silk. If you love those, you'll love her hats. She calls them her "Edwardian" range and indeed they remind one of nothing so much as those long-lost languid days when aristocratic ladies had nothing more pressing on their minds than how to beguile the Prince of Wales. The hat shown here is perhaps the most overtly romantic of them all—a cream antique lace classic hat with a full veil, silk flowers and ribbon. In less skilled hands it would be distinctly over the top. Prices for a Catherine Buckley hat range from about £80—either direct from Catherine Buckley, 362, Westbourne Grove, London, W11, or to order from Harrods of Knightsbridge, London, SW1, and Smiths of Bath, 11, Beaufort Square, Bath. Bottom right: Viv Knowland is probably

one of the best names to look out for if you want a touch of class without breaking the bank. She sells her hats widely all over the country (and will also deal with readers' inquiries at 32, Dryburgh Road, London, SW15) and for the £30 or so that her hat designs usually cost, offers fine straw in subtle shapes, trimmed with feathers, flowers or sometimes scarves. The shapes are much subtler than those to be found in cheaper models. This summer the hats have the fashionable shallower crowns and cleverly shaped brims which are very fetching. This hat is in a soft sils straw somewhere between grey and beige and has a shallower crown and angled brim, finished with a single silk flower. About £33 from Lucy's branches (Bond Street, Marylebone High Street, in W1, Beauchamp Place, SW1, and Brent Cross) in London; Gobbilwinks of Wimbledon; The Boutique, Cookham, Berks; Here and Now, Clitheroe, Yorks.



The space-saving answer to report and accounts' storage

This is a MIRAC microfiche.

We use them to record the facts and figures contained in companies' annual reports.

In all, we have around 3,500 of them, covering all the UK's publicly quoted companies, the nationalised industries and the companies traded in the over-the-counter market.

Each one is capable of carrying anything up to 60 pages of information. And about 25,000 of them can be stored in a cabinet not much bigger than a desk.

They're easily read, with the aid of a simple visual display unit. And page size copies can be made using a desk top reader-printer.

As a subscriber to MIRAC, you'll have access to this space-saving information retrieval system.

You'll be able to call up your own microfiche on any publicly quoted company you're interested in. Or instruct us to monitor a group of companies selected on an industry-by-industry basis.

To find out more about MIRAC, its potential for your organisation, and its cost, complete the coupon below.

MIRAC

To: Margaret Fawcett, Sales Manager, MIRAC Service, The Financial Times Business Information Ltd., Bracken House, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF.

Please send me your leaflet, and a sample fiche, describing the MIRAC service.

☐ I am interested in the full service.

☐ I would like more information about your industry-by-industry monitoring service.

Name _____

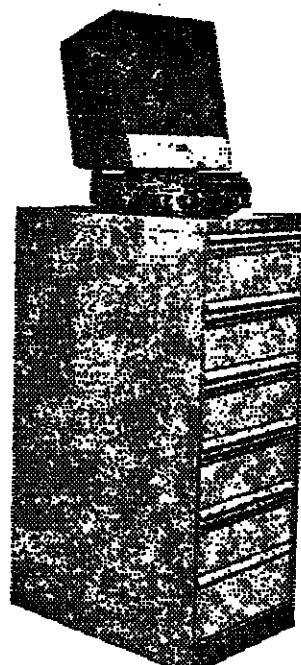
Position _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

The Financial Times Business Information Ltd. Registered in London No. 202281



Scraps of fun

If patchwork to you conjures up visions of traditional hexagons, of the well-known designs of the American pioneering days and little old ladies toiling away on the west coast of Ireland, then a new book, published this week, should go a long way to revitalising this ancient craft. Marie-Janine Solvitt, who has written it, is a French patchwork expert who knows how to make a subject, already so over-exposed, seem fresh and new. Those who have struggled for too long with their log-cabin quilts might like to take a look at Marie-Janine Solvitt's book and see just how colourful, original and different are the designs she shows. Most of them are not based on regular geometric shapes (like the cube, the hexagon or the square) at all but employ free-form techniques which make many of the end-results look very like the most appealing of primitive paintings.

Personally, I like best the designs that are not allied to anything very useful—the Paul

Klee-like landscape, the abstract wall-bangings and pictures. Some of the more practical designs, like the suede waistcoat, the glittering lampshade and the bag of multi-coloured leather, reek too much of craft for craft's sake for my taste.

Full instructions are given for every item in the book and all the designs are illustrated in full-colour. If you haven't done this kind of free-form patchwork before then there are some splendidly small projects to start with—the sheep cushions, for instance, seem not to be too daunting for a beginner and are so original that almost anybody would be happy to be given one. Anyone who has ever collected little scraps of materials over the years and is busy wondering what to do with them need look no further than this book.

* *Magical Patchwork* by Marie-Janine Solvitt, is published by Search Press in its Leisurecraft Series. Buy it for £8.95, inclusive of post and packing from The Leisurecraft Centre, 2-10 Jordan Place, London SW6.



Chester Parrie

The style and comfort of the finest quality hand tailored British clothing at

Harrods

Knightsbridge London SW1X 7AL

OPEN BANK HOLIDAY
SUN & MON 11-5
"All your May WINES now at London's largest WINE CASH & CARRY"

Small selection of 100's of wines
Special London's Largest 11-5 Wine Cash & Carry

WINE of the month!
Liebmann's Riesling £20.95
HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST!

Claret £24.95
Spanish Red £17.90

Noble Grapes
26 The Highway London E11
(Near New Cross Station)

Cotes du Rhone 77 £23.95
Muscadet 77 £23.95
Sparkling Brandy £17.95
French White Wine £15.95
Valpurga 77 £19.95

PLUS 10% MORE - PLUS 6 FREE!
01-435-4788/9

PARENTS!

GREAT SUMMER PLAYDAYS IN THE WINDSOR COUNTRYSIDE FOR CHILDREN 5-15 YEARS

Adventure day camp from 9am-5pm with carefully supervised instruction in 35 different sports and leisure programmes—riding, swimming, tennis, sailing, team activities, gymnastics, archery, football, expeditions—and much more!

We collect children each day at 9am (Mon-Fri) and bring them back at 6pm—dressed out happy, giving you a break!

5 one-week sessions
27 July-28 August, £68 per week
—£20 reduction for brothers and sisters and each additional week.

For brochure and details of your nearest pick-up-point contact: CASH REAUMONT:
22 Portico Place
London W2
Tel: 723 6400 / 258 0402

Elinor Goodman and John Lloyd report that, though MPs still expect Healey to be re-elected Labour's deputy leader...

Benn's bandwagon gathers speed

IN THE seven weeks since Mr Tony Benn launched his campaign for job of deputy leader of the Labour Party, he has cut a swathe through the party which has appalled many Labour MPs, and left some badly demoralised and fearful for the future.

For the havoc which Mr Benn has wrought already is nothing to the divisions he could open up if he actually got the job. He has shown this week that he is prepared to challenge not only Mr Denis Healey whose job he wants, and whose views he detests, but also Mr Michael Foot, the party leader.

And though the expectation at Westminster is that Mr Healey will defeat this challenge, an increasing number of MPs are now saying that there is just a chance Mr Benn will pull it off, even if Mr John Silkin enters the field as the alternative candidate of the left. With every headline about Mr Benn's bid for power, his campaign has gained momentum.

His successes over the last few years have been so spectacular that some MPs now seem to credit him with super-human organisational powers.

Mr Benn's own supporters are still far from convinced he will win. But even if he does not, they will consider his campaign as a success if it continues to focus attention on the difference between the parliamentary party and the views of the rank and file, as expressed at the annual conference, or during this week's ructions over defence.

Mr Benn himself insists that he does not expect to win. He maintains that one of his main reasons for standing is to allow a proper debate on policy. In his manifesto, he said he accepted nomination for the deputy leadership because the election "will give the party an opportunity to discuss policy,

The challenge is not only to Healey, but to Foot

and to commit the parliamentary leadership to a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power, in favour of working people, and their families as set out in our constitution and in conference decisions."

He then went on to list five main objectives based on past conference decisions:

(1) Full employment during the life of the next Labour Government through the adoption of the "alternative strategy" which calls for a major increase in state spending and public ownership.

(2) The expansion and development of housing, health, education, welfare and other essential public services "both to meet people's needs and to create jobs."

(3) Support for women's rights and the extension of "democracy and self-government to all levels of industry and society." The defence of trade unions, the protection of minorities, the enactment of a Freedom of Information Bill and an end to the House of Lords.

(4) Co-operation with other European countries to secure the complete withdrawal of Britain from the EEC and to support the UN in its work for peace.

The adoption of a "non-nuclear defence strategy for Britain, to work for European nuclear disarmament and to secure the removal of all American nuclear bases from Britain."

Mr Benn is determined to use which Prinz, (51), has led as executive chairman for nearly 18 months. As a symbol of German quality and prestige it is still unnecessary to look much further than the Mercedes-Benz star, and in a year that most major western automobile makers have been suffering in the throes of the widespread recession in world car markets, Prinz was able to reveal this week a financial performance which rivals any in Daimler-Benz history.

As a top employer, Volkswagen, has had to announce more than a 50 per cent drop in profits and imminent redundancies in the U.S., where it is sinking millions of dollars in building a new assembly plant. Prinz can only reflect with satisfaction that he made the right change of horses back in 1973. He departed from VW only a matter of months before the company slumped into the traumatic loss-making years of 1974/75.

In Stuttgart Prinz went straight on to the Daimler-Benz board with responsibility for purchasing, but he first made his mark publicly when he led the negotiations for the take-

over of Euclid, the U.S. maker of heavy, off-road vehicles, and Daimler-Benz' first investment in manufacturing in the U.S.

It was too easy for the headline writers, but with a name like Prinz, it was not long before the German press was talking of him as the "Crown-Prince" at Volkswagen. At VW the final straight was crowded with rivals, however, and although Prinz was simultaneously holding the job of chairman of Audi NSU Auto Union along with his board membership at the parent company VW, he left in the summer of 1973 opening the way for Ferdinand Piech, the other giant of the West German motor industry.

Daimler-Benz tries always to avoid doing anything quite so vulgar as blowing its own trumpet, so the disclosure of its results this week was attempted with due modesty. It's happy enough to be seen as the "heart of German stability," however, as Prinz expresses it. Continuity is all. In good and bad times Daimler-Benz has been seen sailing serenely forward, unaffected by anything as common as the squalls of world trade.

Mr Healey's supporters will be doing all they can over the next few months to ensure that there really is a chance at this year's party conference of not only stopping Mr Benn's latest bid for power but also reversing some of his previous

gains. They paint a scenario under which Mr Healey defeats Mr Benn soundly and the conference changes the composition of the electoral college so as to reduce Mr Benn's chances of launching a successful challenge in the years ahead.

But Mr Benn's followers see things rather differently. They believe that the moderates will be so busy organising Mr Benn's defeat they will be



Tony Kirk

diverted from fighting the Left on other issues—such as, who should write the party manifesto.

Mr Foot did all he could to stop Mr Benn challenging Mr Healey this year on the grounds that it would damage party unity. So far, his worst fears must have been confirmed. His best hope now must be that Mr Benn has overstepped the mark and that there will now be a backlash against him.

DURING THE past two years, Mr Benn has been campaigning for his programme in the Labour movement. Since he has been campaigning for himself as well, the pace has stepped up from rapid to staccato, and the main target has become the unions.

In a hectic flurry of fringe meetings, Mr Benn has pressed the flesh and bent the ear of the unions' most active and influential NCOs and junior officers—at times leaving the general staffs under-cut and infuriated.

He now packs these meetings effortlessly. His speaking style is riveting, even for a reporter who has seen its basic elements shuffled and reshuffled. It is fluent and rapid, his pleasant, not-too-Oxford voice hitting a range of tones—militant, reasonable, humorous, self-deprecating—in quick succession. The idealism has the sincerity of a poor friar. The act has been burnished in hundreds of halls until it is flawless, almost exquisite.

The unions, of course, cannot be his sole concern. The electoral college system ushered in by the Wembley special conference gives them the largest proportion, 40 per cent—but it gives the parliamentary party (PLP) and the constituency parties (CLP) 30 per cent each, too.

Mr Benn draws his support from all three of these areas—but in quite different proportions from the last two.

He has a hardcore support of 26 MPs who have declared themselves for him—barely 10 per cent of the PLP and can count on the votes of perhaps 20 more. The ever-ready reckoners in the PLP believe he might take 20 per cent of MPs—though how that number may be swelled under the (so far not very intense)

A hectic battle to win union support

pressure of reselection is an unknown, but pro-Benn, factor.

The CLPs are Mr Benn's safe houses. In many, especially in London, the old Right has collapsed. Its members, often drawn from the ranks of skilled or general unions, have given up, moved out (especially from London) or subsided into grumbling ineffectiveness. Their places have been taken typically, though by no means exclusively, by younger, more militant delegates often in white collar unions with whom the Centre-Left have tended to make common cause, at least so far.

Because of this, it is reckoned that the big lag in the PLP will be effectively cancelled out by a big lead in the CLPs. Hence the importance of the unions.

His supporters reckon that he has more or less secured some 46 per cent of the trade union vote, including already-declared certainties as the white collar unions ASTMS and the TASS section of the AUEW, the print union SOGAT and the virtual certainty of the National Union of Public Employees.

They have dismissed the engineers, the electricians, the clerical union APEX and the shopworkers. They are fighting for the building workers, UCATT; the telephone engineers, POEU; the health workers, COHSE and the mineworkers.

Mr Benn's victory at ASTMS is widely seen as an index of future victories. Mr Clive Jenkins, clawing in to the middle ground, wanted unity round the present leadership. His delegates (narrowly) voted him down. The Bennites' most powerful argument was that Mr Benn's policies were closer to those of the union, indeed to those of Mr Jenkins himself, than those of the leadership.

This kind of argument—that Mr Benn's socialist fundamentalism is consonant with the slogans on union banners and the ideals in the rule books—is hard to resist, especially by general secretaries who, like Mr Jenkins, have taken Left wing lines and still do. Unions' top leadership and former Labour Cabinet ministers can be represented as being compromised by the exigencies of the previous Government.

Did they not drag down their members into two years of incomes policy? Did they not attempt to manage capitalism? The answers are inescapable, and a growing number of union activists who believe that "to be anti-Tory is not enough" are voting for Mr Benn as the anti-establishment man who is taking on his former colleagues.

The Transport and General Workers Union and Mr Silkin are the possible flies in Mr Benn's ointment. If Mr Silkin enters the deputy leadership contest with the TGWU's backing (he would scarcely do so without it) he has 1,250 votes in his pocket. He would certainly pick up Left, anti-Benn MPs. But would he get many more unions? Or any CLPs? And thus, if Mr Silkin departed in the first ballot, would not Mr Benn take the TGWU and then the deputy leadership?

Weekend Brief

Daimler-Benz—a quiet corporation

Gerhard Prinz the football fan and occasional weekend player had little to cheer as he watched the West German national team going down to a 1-2 defeat to Brazil on Tuesday. But if the football team was further evidence for the argument that West Germany is no longer the force it was on the international scene, Prinz needed only to glance outside the Stuttgart football stadium for consolation.

Sprawling beside the football ground are the headquarters and some of the biggest plants of the Daimler-Benz group,

get into Bonwit the main competition was not from Italy or France but other Jermyn Street shirt makers. In his eagerness to do the deal Finch signed first and then rushed out to suppliers to see if he could actually get the cloth, British, of course.

"We told people who normally take four months to get a shirt made that they could have one in a week. There's nothing like recession to make people chase a big order."

Entertaining in the kitchen

There are kitchens and kitchens but few proud parents would regard any as suitable for their daughter's wedding reception.

But what about the use of a castle kitchen while a head of state is being entertained in the Great Hall and the presidents of multi-national corporations are landing in helicopters outside the Reynolds Room for a high level meeting?

All such arrangements are said to be possible at Castle Ashby, the ancestral home of the Marquis of Northampton, whose ground floor has been transformed, at a cost of some £400,000 into a "centre for all occasions."

The Marquis's delightful 18th century home, near Northampton, has had a tough time of late having been dismissed by the National Trust as "a white elephant" when it was offered the house and its parkland. Lord Northampton even contemplated selling the entire contents of the castle—in a Montmorency style operation—but contented himself with a sale of "a Greek pot here and there," in order to pay the £50,000 a year upkeep cost of the pile.

The Marquis, welcoming his first visitors at the "centre" this week, said: "We eventually decided to have a very professional assessment of what the house could be used for. No stone, it seems, has been unturned, with even the Solid Fuel Advisory Board being called in to assess the working potential of the old kitchen spit. Neither has the Marquis ignored the leisure habits of his Midland catchment area for some of Capability Brown's 18th century terraced lakes within the

grounds are to be stocked with carp for match angling.

Even the presence of the Marquis can be thrown into the package although as yet there is no charge for this service. He and his wife no longer live at Castle Ashby, they have opted for something a bit smaller—the 80-roomed Compton Wynantys in Warwickshire which is one of the most beautiful Tudor houses in England.

Game, sit and watch

In Britain's frequently unpredictable climate it is often difficult to get even the most enthusiastic sports spectator to leave the comfort of the club house to watch players battle against the elements.

Extel Sports Service recently inaugurated a closed circuit television information service at the Martini International golf tournament which kept bedraggled visitors huddled inside the gabled village at Wentworth entertained and informed while the rain lashed the golfers and interrupted play three times.

With about 50 television sets dotted around Wentworth the system provided a variety of information from the latest golfing scores, and golfers' progress around the course, general news around the world, news about other sporting events such as horse racing, cricket and tennis to the Financial Times Share Index, where to catch the country bus and requests for people to move their cars because of obstruction.

In addition, the service carried advertising which cost as little as £500 for a simple advert into the system for several thousand pounds for an advert of normal television quality.

The hub of the system, Extel, is an on course studio which needs up to 16 people to man— which gathers in news from all over the golf course and from Extel's own external news services. The studio is equipped with a computer which operates in a similar fashion to teletext broadcasts by storing pages of information which a broadcaster in a continuous cycle.

In addition, the system can

accommodate conventional television pictures with sound to provide a normal service, although the only items with sound on the system are the advertisements to give maximum impact.

An average of 40,000 people visited the major British golfing tournaments last year and Extel says that the popularity of the sport is growing so it believes that it is worthwhile to provide such an information service. It has already co-operated with the Professional Golf Association and course managers to provide the service in all the 15 major UK golf tournaments this year which began with the Martini International at Wentworth.

On Thursday it will make an appearance at the Dunlop Masters taking place at Woburn, followed by others such as the Buthins Jersey Open, the English Classic, the Bob Hope British Classic, ending with the Suntory World Match Play in October.

However Extel believes that the information service is not limited to one sport. They say that it could be used for horse racing or any major event where spectators may be scattered over a wide area. In addition it could be used in large retail stores to provide customers with a wide variety of sales information.

Users could either opt to buy a permanent system or just hire one for the relevant occasion. It is also possible for major events to allow Extel to operate the system on a licence basis where Extel gains its revenue from the advertising transmitted on the system.

Advertising is, in fact, the most important money spinner for the information system when it is used for sports and similar events.

For example in the golf tournament application—where the audience is predominantly male—Extel has managed to interest manufacturers and distributors of high-quality male interest products such as motor cars, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, do-it-yourself and, naturally, golf equipment.

Contributors:

Kevin Done
Arthur Sandles
Liza Wood
Elaine Williams

TODAY: Mass meeting of Ford workers at Halewood following withdrawal of disciplinary code by management. National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education conference opens, Bournemouth.

TOMORROW: Mrs. Margaret Thatcher opens John Wesley's House, City Road, London.

MONDAY: Ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meet in Geneva for annual oil price fixing. International Congress of Agricultural Journalists opens, Glasgow.

TUESDAY: Accounts of Crown Agents. New vehicle registrations

Economic Diary

(April). Preliminary estimate of gross domestic product based on output data (first quarter). Lord Carrington, Foreign Secretary, begins two-day visit to Algeria. Sir Keith Joseph, Industry Secretary, leaves for 10-day tour of U.S. Princess Margaret at European Fashion Show in Munich sponsored by British Menswear Guild. Dutch General Election.

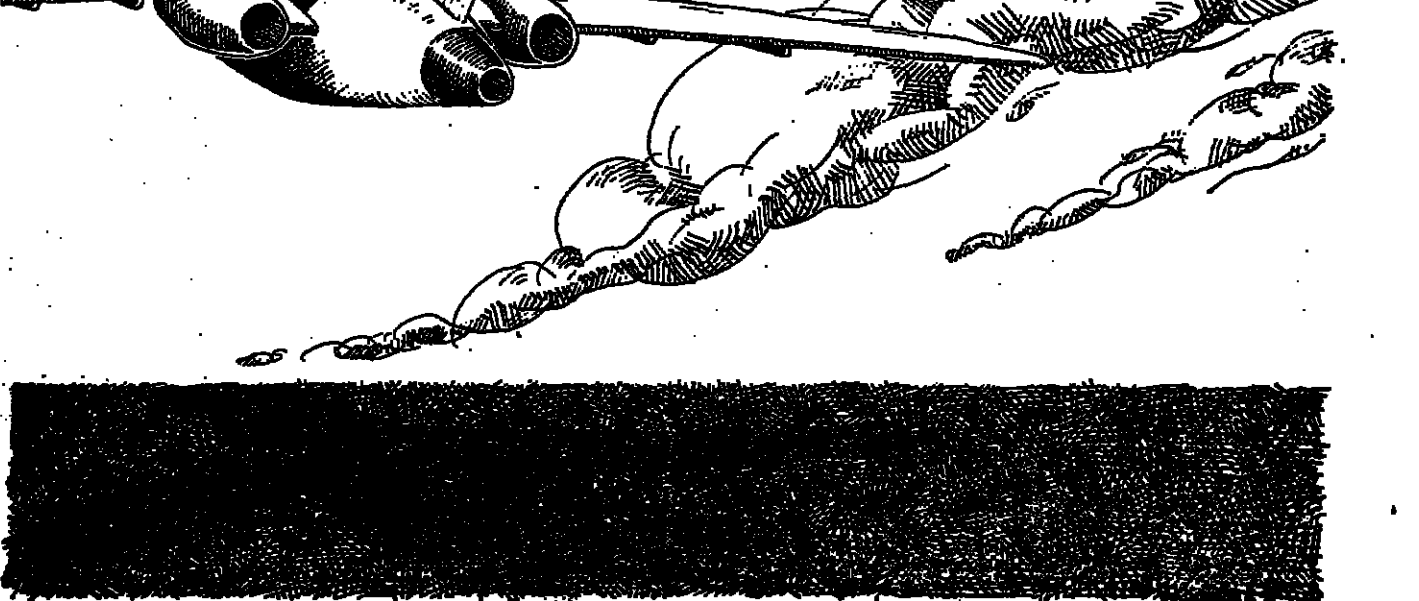
WEDNESDAY: Two-day meeting of Japanese and European Economic Community officials on car exports. Paris. Financial Times luncheon at Mansion House for representatives of

foreign banks in London—guest speaker, Mr. Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England. Sir David McNeel, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, lectures on law and order, Royal Society of Arts, London. National Association of Head Teachers conference opens, Blackpool. Mrs. Shirley Williams, member of the Social Democratic Party leadership, talks on "Industry and a Human Face," 21, Albemarle Street, London.

THURSDAY: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (May provisional). Energy Trends publication. Investment intentions of

the manufacturing distributive and service industries (1981-82). Department of Employment Gazette will include employment in the production industries (March), overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (March), and stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (April). Scottish National Party conference opens, Aberdeen. Statement by Commission for Racial Equality on probation in multi-racial society. FRIDAY: Sales and orders in the engineering industries (April). Car and commercial vehicle production (April—final). Labour Party Wales conference opens, Arcadia Theatre, Llandudno.

From April 1st there's an easy way out.



Most people who fly to Portugal, whether for business or pleasure, want to leave from Heathrow.

For a good reason, it's more convenient.

Which means that from April 1st,

Air Portugal will be the more convenient airline. Because from that day it will be the only airline to fly daily from Heathrow to Lisbon.

British Airways will go from Gatwick.

For £288* return you can fly Air Portugal Economy and get a choice of excellent Portuguese wine free with your meal.

Won't it be nice to leave from the right place at a realistic price?

1200 AIR PORTUGAL
FROM HEATHROW THE EASY WAY OUT.

*Regular scheduled flight. See your travel agent for departures, other fares and connections to South Africa and South America. Fares subject to Government approval.

Companies and Markets

UK COMPANY NEWS

Approval for Tate's debenture repayment

BY CHRISTINE MORRIS

Tate and Lyle has won stockholders' permission to repay its 44 per cent first mortgage irredeemable debenture at 15 per cent below par, but by the narrowest of margins. And the rumblings are not likely to die down for some time.

At a special meeting of stockholders yesterday a show of hands produced three votes against and only one for the plan to repay the £500,000 stock at 85 pence.

On a poll, however, the dissenters fell just short of defeating the resolution. The company needed 75 per cent of the votes of those present to win the day. In the event it obtained 73.07 per cent.

The Post Office pension funds led the dissenters, together with clients of James Capel, the stockbroker, and Penzance Con-

sultancy, which represented an unnamed charity.

Mr Ralph Quartano, chief executive of the POSSFUND, opposed the resolution as a matter of principle. The trust deeds of the debenture specifically allow for the company, in unusual circumstances, to repay the otherwise irredeemable stock, but only at par.

By fixing the repayment at 85 pence, Mr Quartano believes the company has broken faith with investors who bought the stock on the face value of the terms laid out in the initial prospectus.

He fears that such a move, which could create a precedent for other companies to follow, could seriously weaken investors' faith in commercial fixed interest stock, at a time when industry is being encouraged to

revive the market for such instruments.

Mr James Forbes, a Tate vice-chairman, who chaired the meeting, said that the company's advisers had consulted insurance companies who held the debenture before announcing the repayment terms. They had agreed that 85 pence was a fair price.

The stock was secured as a first mortgage against the Liverpool factory recently closed by Tate. Its deeds required the company to keep the fabric in good repair and Mr Forbes said that that was no longer in the company's interest.

The deeds did, however, allow the mortgage to be transferred to another property.

In all holders representing 80 per cent of the debenture voted on the proposal—88 per cent for it and 22 per cent against.



Lord Erroll: at least conditions are not getting worse

UK demand stable, says Bowater

THE PAPER, packaging and tissue group, Bowater, is still operating below capacity in most of its UK and European plants, but mills in North America are working full out, Lord Erroll, the chairman, told the annual meeting.

Selling prices in the UK and Europe were depressed, he added, "but at least conditions are not getting worse."

In North America, demand for newspaper in main product, remained good in the southern states, where its main interests were, though it was less buoyant in the US overall.

The international market for pulp was stronger than predicted and this should benefit the results of pulp mills in South Carolina and Sweden, he said.

Lord Erroll said the cost of energy in the UK was a major factor in the group's ability to compete with tissue product suppliers in continental Europe.

"It will, therefore, undoubtedly affect our decision to expand in the tissue business, including the proposed new mill at Grimsby."

Last year, said Lord Erroll, had seen the demise of the UK newspaper industry. "Substantial relief on our extensive energy costs must quickly be provided to the remaining paper industry in this country, which, in our own printing and packaging paper operations are a part, to avoid it suffering a similar fate."

Last year, Bowater closed its Mersey Mill at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire with a loss of 1,600 jobs because it was losing heavily. A Canadian company, Consolidated Bathurst, is considering reopening the newspaper mill.

IN THE half year to the end of March 1981 the Reliant Motor Group slumped from a pre-tax profit of £53,000 to a loss of £597,000 on turnover some 37 per cent down on £6.1m. Last year the company made a profit before tax of £237,000 and turnover was £18.4m.

Mr J. F. Nash, chairman, says the results are disappointing, being the first to be reported since it became an independent public company last April. However, he says the depressed state of the motor industry was inevitable that the results would be poor. Last February the company forecast a pre-tax loss for the year to the end of September 1981 of £700,000 and a fall in turnover of 20 per cent from last year's figure.

Expenditure on reorganisation exceeded by £25,000 the provision made in last year's accounts. This was written off in the half year figures as an extraordinary item (nil).

Sales of the three wheeled Robin are continuing at reasonable levels. However, Mr Nash says the Budget changes in petrol prices has further weakened demand for larger vehicles such as the Schmitz.

The company is again operating short time working, but has been able to preserve a satisfactory cash position. Design and development work is continuing on a number of projects. The costs of this work are being written off as they are being incurred and are, therefore, included in the pre-tax loss.

Tax for the half year was a credit of £32,000 (nil), and preference dividends absorbed £21,000 (nil), leaving a retained loss of £597,000 (£52,000 profit).

No interim dividend has been declared and the loss per share is stated at 9.3p (0.9p earnings).

comment

In the wake of yesterday's Reliant figures, one can only hope that other newly merged companies will start life on a healthier footing. Reliant predicted a 1981 pre-tax loss of £700,000 at the time of the merger earlier this year; it now looks as though the company will lose £1m this year. Reliant had outstanding bank overdrafts of £1.9m a few months ago. It now has a net worth of around £2.7m last September, it now has funds of around £2.1m and will probably have a capital gearing level of 156 per cent by the end of this year. The company admits that the current year is "incredibly difficult" but this is not all. Apparently a group of nominees has acquired a 10 per cent stake in Reliant during the last fortnight. At yesterday's 9p a share, this was not too costly, but it is not clear what is behind the purchase. Shareholders should fasten their seatbelts.

Revalue strengthens Savoy's hand

IN THE formal rejection of the Savoy Hotel's revised £57.2m bid, Savoy's directors reveal a £2.7m property revaluation surplus which takes net assets up to £78.7m.

Sir Hugh Wontner, the Savoy chairman, says that the directors believe that the "Savoy company has a secure future as an independent company, and that the hotels which the company owns and manages are unique, and are not suited to being managed by a large leisure conglomerate such as TEF."

But Sir Hugh says that a number of approaches have been received since the announcement of the TEF offer and the board "shall keep an open mind about any proposals which seem to have the potential for improving the effectiveness of our operations and the value of your

investment in the company, and which would not detract from the reputation of the company in this country and abroad."

On the basis of the revaluation Sir Hugh says that the net assets attributable to each "A" share amounts to 28p. This compares with the TEF offer of 190p which he describes as "manifestly inadequate."

Sir Hugh says that while the TEF offer for the "B" shares (£11.25p) represents a substantial premium over the net assets of 140p per share attributable to those shares, this premium "merely reflects the level of premium over the 'A' shares that the 'B' shares have recently commanded in the market because of their valuable voting right."

"It follows, therefore, from the directors' views about the

inadequacy of TEF's offer for the 'A' shares that they believe TEF's offer for the 'B' shares is similarly inadequate and should be rejected."

Sir Hugh says that the TEF bid is "misconceived. It fails to recognise the true value of the Savoy group of hotels, it seeks to make use of a setback in the company's trading to gain possession of the company's assets and it should be rejected."

"Your directors are convinced that if the Savoy group of hotels were to be taken over by TEF there would inevitably be a severe risk of damage to the standards which have been maintained in these hotels and for which they are known and admired throughout the world."

Sir Hugh confirms that negotiations are in progress with a number of interested parties

regarding the disposal of part of the hotel known as the East Block. He says that this accounts for less than 10 per cent of the aggregate valuation of the company's properties and the sale would reduce borrowings and cut interest costs.

On current trading Sir Hugh says that the difficult conditions which affected last year's results have persisted in the early part of the current year. He adds that it is too early to give an indication of the full-year's results, which inevitably depend on occupancy rates which cannot easily be forecast. However, the dividend is expected to be maintained.

The Savoy reported a £1.7m pre-tax loss for 1980.

The Savoy "A" shares gained 1p to 152p yesterday. TEF shares fell 5p to 143p.

SRD in £2m counter bid for Hield Bros.

Hield Brothers, the loss making worsted cloth manufacturer, has received a counter bid worth just over £2m from Stroud Riley Drummond, its largest shareholder, with a stake of 27.4 per cent.

Stroud is offering one of its own shares plus 18p cash for every 6 ordinary units of Hield. Taking yesterday's price of 61p for Stroud this values each Hield share at 15.3p, compared with 13p in the market. Stroud is also offering a cash alternative of 11.5p per share, and 60p cash for each preference share.

This compares with an offer from the Chamsi Bacha family of the Middle East, through its private Gamma Beta Investments company, of 101p cash per ordinary share and 55p cash for the preference. Members of the

Simmonds, chief executive of Stroud Riley, said: "We feel we could do a far better job of work on the company. It is a comparable type of business with its main markets in the Middle East."

Mr Simmonds said that he saw Hield as a recovery situation and felt that Stroud could accelerate the process. But Mr Simmonds said he was not planning to "enter into a Dutch auction."

The Chamsi Bacha family, which has been associated with Stroud for over 30 years, is of Syrian origin and has been trading in textiles and commodities in the Middle East for four generations. The major part of the cloth supplied from the UK comes from Hield.

Stroud says the strengths of the company and Hield would combine to form a group with

very considerable force in the worsted manufacturing field.

Stroud believes that the merger of the two companies would improve the future profitability of Hield and the resulting group will form a strong export oriented UK textile manufacturing company.

Stroud also announced estimated profits of not less than £300,000 for the year ended March 31 1981, compared with a loss of £83,000. The dividend is being stepped up from 0.5p to 3p per share with a final 2p and a one-for-one scrip issue is proposed.

A professional revaluation of Stroud's freehold properties during the year has thrown up a surplus over book values of £745,000—equal to 20p per share.

Gasco extends Piran offer

Gasco is extending its offer for Saint Piran, the tin mining and property development company, until 3.00 pm on June 8, and has obtained the authority of the Court to register transfers of all shares of accepting holders. These will be paid for in accordance with the offer.

The aggregate number of shares owned by Gasco amounts to 8,612,903, or 73.82 per cent. In addition the company has been notified of acceptances from holders with addresses in the Far East. These are believed to amount to 1,136,850 ordinary shares (9.74 per cent), but relevant documentation has not yet been received.

comment

Perramon Press said yesterday it now has a stake of just over 9 per cent in publishing group Wm Collins, for which News International has made a takeover bid.

Perramon, headed by Mr Robert Maxwell, said it had bought a further 22,500 shares to bring its holding up to 373,100 shares, or 9.06 per cent.

News International owns 30.8 per cent of the ordinary shares for which it is bidding 200p each. But the share price has kept well above this level—yesterday it closed 3p up at 253p—precluding News from buying more in the market.

News is also bidding 150p for the non-voting "A" shares which were 5p higher at 160p yesterday.

Yes to Dunlop share transfer in Malaysia

MALAYSIAN authorities have finally approved the local transfer within companies controlled by Mr. Ghafar Baba, a prominent businessman and politician, of a large block of shares in Dunlop Holdings, the UK tyre and industrial concern.

The Capital Issues Committee (CIC) has agreed that Pegi Malaysia can buy 21.2m Dunlop shares (15.4 per cent) from its parent, Goodfield Place, Ltd. This will bring the Pegi stake up to 17.5 per cent. The Foreign Investment Committee cleared the deal in March.

Dunlop shares closed 7p higher in London yesterday at 57p. The CIC has lowered the approved price at which Pegi can obtain the holding by 50 Malaysian cents (10p) to 3.50 ringgit (72p) a share, putting the value of the transfer at 74.2m ringgit (£15.3m) to be met in Pegi shares.

The CIC said Pegi would permit the lifting of Pegi's two-year suspension on the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange upon Pegi publishing an explanatory statement about its activities.

Although Pegi has remained listed in Singapore, it was suspended in Kuala Lumpur under pending in Kuala Lumpur under listing of a Cash-Shell company, which it was in 1979. Goodfield owns 50.3 per cent of Pegi.

comment

BEJAM SELLS RESTAURANTS

Bejam, the food and freezer group, has completed the sale of its Trumps hamburger restaurants and exchanged three contracts for the disposal of its other trading restaurants and two properties for a further £14.7m.

Bejam announced in March that it was selling its five Trumps outlets in London to Huckle-

Queens Moat in hotel deals worth £2m

Queens Moat Houses is paying £2m for two hotels, the freehold of an existing one and the remaining half-share in another of its premises.

The price for the first three deals will be met by the issue of up to 4.9m new shares to be placed with institutional and private investors by stockbrokers Duff Stoop.

The company is paying £540,000 for the Cromwell Hotel in Stevenage (to be renamed the Stevenage Moat House) and £410,000 for the uncompleted White Eagle Hotel, Hereford (to become the Hereford Moat House).

It has also bought the freehold of the Hertfordshire Moat House for £655,000, operated under a lease since March 31 1981, and 1978. Already completed is the £80,000 cash purchase of the outstanding 50 per cent of Rulvenston, which owns the freehold/long leasehold of the Bournehouse Moat House.

comment

SPAIN

May 22

Barco Bilbao 305 -3

Barco Banco 355

Barco Banco 280 -2

Barco Banco 284 -8

Barco Banco 123

Barco Banco 188

Barco Banco 321 -3

Barco Banco 222 +4

Barco Banco 176 -3

Barco Banco 67.5

Barco Banco 71.7 -0.8

Barco Banco 58.5 -2.2

Barco Banco 108.5 -1.5

Barco Banco 79

Barco Banco 65.7 +0.5

Barco Banco 70 -0.7

Barco Banco 70 -0.7

Barco Banco 70 -0.7

Barco Banco 70 -0.7

Barco Banco 70 -0.7

LMS approach rejected by Cambridge

Westpool Investment Trust and its subsidiary LMS Industrial have bought 350,000 shares (5.6 per cent) in Cambridge Petroleum Royalties, which is rejecting closer links.

Cambridge said that most of the holding appeared to have been bought recently. London Merchant Securities (LMS), controlled by Westpool, proposed that Cambridge should buy certain oil assets of LMS in exchange for Cambridge shares.

This would have resulted in LMS becoming a major, and possibly dominant, shareholder in Cambridge. But Cambridge said its board, advised by merchant bankers Robert Fleming, had told LMS that talks should not be pursued, as the deal is unlikely to be in shareholders' best interests.

To avoid possible conflict of interest, Sir Richard Baker, chairman, a Westpool director, has resigned from the Cambridge board.

comment

BANK MERGER

The merger of Lewis's Bank with Lloyds Bank became effective on Thursday with the 11 former Lewis's branches forming the Lloyds Bank Division of Lloyds. But Cambridge said it was acquired by Lloyds in 1967.

comment

Results due next week

ALL EYES will be focused upon Courtland next Thursday when the troubled textile giant reveals its 1980 annual results. Analysts are playing a guessing game about profits, with the pre-tax estimates ranging from a pessimistic £10m loss to an optimistic £10m profit (against 1979's £58m). It will depend in part upon the size of Courtland's reorganisation costs, taking in closures and redundancies. The interim cost here was £19m, but some believe it could escalate to more than £50m for the whole of last year. As for the dividend, passed at the halfway stage, it appears unlikely that shareholders will receive more than a nominal payout, making for a weak start to the year. This could come largely from International Paints, which unlike the fibres, textiles and packaging businesses, seems to have done well.

Two regional brewers bringing out interim results next week are expected to show healthy pro-

gress. Greenall Whitley, on Thursday, should report profits of at least £9m before tax, against £3.5m last year. New public houses have come on stream, and the full year might show a total as high as £24m (against £20.1m), including property surpluses in line with the treatment adopted last year.

Volwerhampton and Dudley is thought to be keeping up its record of rapid growth; analysts are looking for an advance of as much as 15 per cent on last year's £3.8m pre-tax, when the figures are released on Friday. Like Greenall, Volwerhampton has been increasing its number of outlets, and its historic strength in "mild" seems to be withstanding increased competition from the nationals.

On Thursday, preliminary results are due from Young, where a long-standing shortage of capacity has now been overcome; improved margins should allow some recovery from a poor first

half, and the pre-tax may approach last year's £1.5m.

There has been some speculation that BOC will join the list of big companies making interim figures when it reports interim results on Tuesday. Its shares have risen significantly in the past few months and the figures are expected. But some analysts are still wary of the chairman's will stick to his assertion at a meeting with them in February that no rights issue was planned. Profit estimates have been noted in response to the decline of sterling against the dollar and a better result from Airco in the U.S. Estimates of pre-tax profits range around £35m compared with £31m last year. A 10 per cent increase in the dividend also seems likely.

Tate and Lyle's interim figures due on Wednesday will show signs of recovery from last year's extremely depressed midway

earnings of £9.2m. Analysts range in their forecasts from £11.1m to £12.5m for the six months to March 31 1981, with most of the benefits of the group's reorganisation showing through in the second half. Agribusiness will have improved, but the £2.7m loss, appear to be well down. For the full-year analysts are going for £32m to £35m against £28m reflecting savings from the closure of the Liverpool sugar factory and reductions in the group's starch operations.

Other results due next week include preliminary figures from Allied Irish Banks on Wednesday and William Press and US&A on Thursday. On Wednesday, W&A's Green reports interim figures and Phoenix Assurance presents first quarter figures.

comment

FINAL DIVIDENDS

Allied Irish Banks

Allied London Properties

BBC International

Carew International

General Stockholders Trust

Greenall Whitley

Kellogg Industries

M and G Group

North British Steel Group (Holdings)

Scottish Investment Trust

Scottish National Trust

Spring Grove Services

Stakis (Rae) Organisation

Tate and Lyle

Volwerhampton and Dudley Breweries

Phoenix Assurance

Pict Petroleum

Woodward Group

USM Group

Young and Co's Brewery

INTERIM DIVIDENDS

Allied London Properties

BOC International

Carew International

General Stockholders Trust

Greenall Whitley

Kellogg Industries

M and G Group

North British Steel Group (Holdings)

Scottish Investment Trust

Scottish National Trust

Spring Grove Services

Stakis (Rae) Organisation

Tate and Lyle

Volwerhampton and Dudley Breweries

Phoenix Assurance

Pict Petroleum

Woodward Group

USM Group

Young and Co's Brewery

INTERIM DIVIDENDS

Allied London Properties

BOC International

Carew International

General Stockholders Trust

Greenall Whitley

Kellogg Industries

M and G Group

North British Steel Group (Holdings)

Scottish Investment Trust

Scottish National Trust

Spring Grove Services

Stakis (Rae) Organisation

Tate and Lyle

Volwerhampton and Dudley Breweries

Phoenix Assurance

Pict Petroleum

Woodward Group

USM Group

Young and Co's Brewery

INTERIM DIVIDENDS

Allied London Properties

BOC International

Carew International

General Stockholders Trust

Greenall Whitley

THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Take-over bids and deals

Thomas W. Ward increased his bid for Tunnel Holdings. The new terms are two Ward shares, plus 20p cash for each Tunnel share and values the company at approximately £108m compared with the original offer price of about £85m. Tunnel remains strongly opposed to the bid.

Brown Shipley made an agreed 30p per share cash bid for Tedens Trust, an unquoted company which provides insurances for motor vehicle purchases. Brown Shipley already owns 9 per cent of Tedens and the offer values the latter at £37.6m.

Money brokers Mercantile House agreed to acquire Cosmover, leading Swiss money broker, for SwFr 30.95m (£27.2m) cash.

Dealings in William Leech and Bellway, two Newcastle-based housebuilding companies, were suspended at 9.15 and 8.50 respectively pending the outcome of discussions which may result in a merger.

Shares in Charles Hill, of Bristol, the civil engineer with shipping interests, nearly doubled in price on Monday to 90p on an announcement that discussions are in progress that may lead to an offer for the company.

Dealings in Hirst and Mollinson and Associated British Engineering were suspended on Thursday at 3.70 and 3.00 respectively following the announcement that discussions were taking place which may lead to ABE making an agreed offer for Hirst. ABE's original bid for Hirst, accepted by the latter's largest shareholder, Grovewood Securities, which owns 28.6 per cent, was 1 ABE share for every 5 Hirst.

The National Bank of Australasia announced a revised agreed offer for Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. The new terms are two National shares plus A\$1.75 cash for each CBC share and convertible note, valuing CBC at A\$446m compared with the original offer worth A\$391m.

Company	Value of bid per share*	Price value of bid per share*	Final offer
Anglo Metrop.	104½	102	101
Brit. Sugar Cpn.	285½	338	315
Collins (Wm.)	200½	253	180
Collins (Wm.) A	150½	185	135
Construct. Bldgs.	201½	214½	185
H. H. Dowling	200½	212	198
Field Bros.	10½	13	10½
Hirst & Mollinson	36	37½	30
Le Valonnet	45½	66	43
Le Valonnet & Scottish	200½	197	185
London and European	45½	44	44½
Provincial	48	48	57½
Two Estates	58½	60	58
T. Piran	60½	65½	65½
T. Piran B	110	111½	110
T. Piran C	482½	450	320
Wrightson (F.)	77½	72	70

* All cash offer. † Cash alternative. ‡ Partial bid. § For capital not already held. ¶ Based on 22/5/81. †† At suspension. ‡‡ Estimated. §§ Shares and cash. §§ Unconditional.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)	Earnings* per share (p)	Dividends* per share (p)
Advance Services	Dec.	4,890 (4,470)	10.0 (8.0)	3.0 (3.6)
Alpine Holdings	Jan.	1,280 (2,760)	8.9 (15.8)	5.25 (5.25)
Assam Deacons	Dec.	213 (54)	5.8 (—)	8.0 (8.0)
Bentley	Mar.	121,400 (121,300)	21.1 (22.5)	7.5 (7.5)
Cambridge & Hill	Dec.	664 (1,020)	17.7 (16.8)	2.75 (2.8)
Edman Lines	Dec.	1,830 (2,820)	— (—)	7.81 (8.79)
ESI London	Mar.	818 (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Fidelity Radio	Mar.	2,760 (530)	— (7.7)	0.1 (5.66)
Five Art Devl.	Mar.	4,800 (6,057)	9.0 (9.2)	2.75 (2.5)
Poster Bros.	Feb.	9,040 (10,710)	13.1 (12.9)	3.35 (3.2)
Geers Gross	Dec.	1,135 (827,000)	10.9 (7.7)	4.0 (3.0)
Startwell Group	Feb.	1,500 (2,580)	12.7 (23.5)	5.87 (5.27)
Heath (C.E.)	Mar.	12,635 (12,650)	12.1 (10.5)	9.7 (9.7)
Hinton (Inds.)	Mar.	1,300 (878)	18.4 (14.5)	6.0 (4.0)
Int. Assoc. Ind.	Dec.	6,050 (6,330)	40.1 (38.9)	5.0 (5.0)
Kwik-Fit Tyres	Feb.	4,010 (1,960)	4.8 (5.5)	1.5 (1.22)
Land Sea Inv. Tr.	Mar.	54,860 (38,120)	12.4 (9.5)	19.5 (7.8)
London & Nthn.	Dec.	8,760 (10,080)	18.0 (15.2)	3.75 (3.75)
Mack & Spencer	Dec.	181,190 (178,650)	7.5 (7.2)	3.5 (3.5)
Nathan (C.E.)	Dec.	705 (872)	— (—)	— (—)
Orwin Inv. Tr.	Mar.	2,580 (2,500)	2.7 (2.1)	2.68 (2.68)
Prismat. & Sndd.	Mar.	3,060 (3,990)	17.3 (21.7)	3.25 (3.25)
Readit Int'l.	Mar.	1,980 (4,630)	— (2.8)	0.1 (1.25)
Rumfman (Witr.)	Dec.	2,530 (732)	18.9 (11.6)	7.5 (3.75)
Scott & Robertson	Feb.	446 (619)	4.9 (15.0)	1.53 (3.06)
Selincourt	Jan.	830 (2,060)	0.9 (1.8)	1.4 (3.2)
Teys & Co.	Dec.	641 (451)	— (18.6)	1.63 (1.63)
Weeks Associates	Jan.	971 (42)	— (—)	0.1 (1.61)
Whitbread	Feb.	66,390 (61,810)	22.7 (21.6)	6.7 (5.94)

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year	Pre-tax profit (£000)	Interim dividends* per share (p)
Assoc. Engng.	Mar.	1,700 (10,500)	— (1.63)
Barton Transport	Mar.	271 (123)	— (—)
Bleasdale Bros.	Mar.	353 (215)	— (1.58)
Concepts	Mar.	69 (120)	0.6 (1.21)
Cramphorn	Jan.	69 (127)	5.0 (5.0)
HME	Dec.	12,240 (23,320)	— (—)
Leeds & District	Mar.	251 (372)	1.0 (1.0)
Lloyds & Scottish	Mar.	12,790 (11,000)	— (1.87)
Lays Foundries	Mar.	1,210 (163)	— (1.05)
Magnat. Agency	Jan.	1,010 (1,370)	2.5 (2.5)
Paxton (G.R.)	Mar.	185 (1,940)	3.0 (3.0)
Pleasurama	Mar.	2,090 (1,530)	2.5 (2.0)
Ranks Hovis	Feb.	21,660 (20,770)	1.52 (1.52)
Ransome Hymn.	Apr.	1,231 (5,940)	2.0 (2.0)
Redfern Natl.	Mar.	3,810 (1,84)	3.0 (3.28)
Redman Hecum	Mar.	1,500 (1,090)	2.2 (2.5)
Riley (E.J.)	Jan.	310 (345)	1.25 (1.25)
Royal Dutch Shell	Mar.	332,000 (716,000)	— (—)
Spencer Clark	Mar.	254 (311)	0.4 (1.1)
Steehouse Hldgs.	Mar.	2,650 (2,400)	— (1.82)
Unilever	Dec.	161,100 (124,700)	— (—)
W. Ribbens	Dec.	273 (230)	1.05 (1.05)
Westward TV	Jan.	127 (584)	— (—)

(Figures in parentheses are for corresponding period.)
* Dividends shown net except where otherwise stated. † First quarter figures. ‡ Pre-tax income. § No comparable figures. ¶ Not comparable. †† Operating profit. ††† Nine months' figures. †††† An interim dividend will be declared in August. ††††† Special interim dividend. ††††† Net income. ††††† Loss.

Rights Issues

Commercial Bank of the Near East—Rights issue on the basis of one for two at par to raise £1m.

Fine Art Development—Is raising £5.3m by way of a one for five rights issue at 50p per share.

Geers Gross—Is raising £1m by way of a rights issue on the basis of one for six at 90p per share.

Morgan Grenfell—Rights issue at 200p per share to raise £12m.

JAMES WILKES (manufacturer of business forms and equipment)—The sale of Wilkes Business Forms, a wholly-owned subsidiary, for £200,000 would give rise to an extraordinary book loss in the order of £440,000. Mr. J. Wilkes, the chairman, told the board that it is necessary to take this action because of a loss in the subsidiary of £148,500 in 1980 and mounting losses in the first quarter of 1981. The net effect on the group was to reduce its borrowings by approximately £100,000, and to curtail losses from the commencement of this second quarter.

TAYLOR WOODROW (international engineering, construction and development group)—Results for 1980 reported.

HEWLETT-STUART PLANT (plant hire, manufacturing)—Results for February 1981 reported. April 1981 preliminary statement with prospects. Group fixed assets £45,72m (£44,85m). Net current assets £7,51m (£7,85m). Shareholders' funds £26,23m (£24,58m).

Meeting, Glasgow, June 11, noon. LEVEX (Fabric Printer)—Results for 1980: no final dividend making 0.5p (nil) per share; turnover £5,185 (£4,25m); attributable profit £32,400 (£148,021) after tax £18,981 (£12,354); earnings per share 1.04 (1.91) year.

MAGNOLIA GROUP (mouldings) (manufacturer and importer of picture frame mouldings)—Chairman told the annual general meeting that despite some noticeable competition from Europe and the Far East, sales trends for the first four months of this year indicate "we are slightly ahead of last year." He said he was confident that profits for the year would be maintained in the last full year, the group profit before tax was £761,000.

SCOTTISH MORTGAGE AND TRUST—Results for year to March 31, 1981, reported April 21. Investments £159,68m (£151,44m). Net current liabilities £1,84m (£1,32m). Shareholders' funds £148,42m (£103,54m). Liquidity decreased £1,71m (£2,08m increase). Board does not expect any appreciable increase in earnings per share in current year but anticipates a 10 per cent increase in 1981.

STANDARD TELEPHONES AND CABLES (UK subsidiary of ITT of US) Sales in the first four months to the end of April had been maintained. Sir Kenneth Corfield, chairman, told annual meeting. Orders were as high as in the last year but it would be difficult to maintain margins. The chairman said 1981 would be a difficult year. The group would continue growing but at a slower rate than last year.



Mr. Richard Patrick, the chairman of Taylor Woodrow: "1980 results almost unsatisfactory"

April 10, Mr. R. G. Patrick, chairman, says having regard to difficulties in construction industry and general economic situation, he regards results as being "almost unsatisfactory." Group ended year with a substantial volume of work on hand to carry it forward into 1981. Current cost price profit £18.7m against historical £24.8m (£24,57m). Shareholders' funds £206,43m (£175,7m). Net current assets £57,87m (£58,5m). Fixed assets £74,74m (£72,2m). Liquid funds £45,55m (£4,85m). Meeting, Savoy Hotel, WC, June 18, 11.30 am.

APPOINTMENTS

Granada TV chief executive

Mr David Plowright has been appointed managing director of GRANADA TELEVISION. He has been joint managing director with Sir Denis Forman, the chairman, since 1975. Mr. Plowright joined Granada in 1967 and was programme controller for 10 years from 1969. He is chairman of the ITV network programme committee, a director of Granada Television International, of the Independent Television Companies' Association, and of Independent Television News.

Mr R. W. Adam takes up the appointment of a deputy chairman of the BRITISH PETROLEUM COMPANY on July 6. At the same time Mr R. W. Rendle will become a managing director. Mr C. C. F. Laidlaw retires as a deputy chairman and from the Board on July 5.

Lord Carr of Hadley, Mr H. G. Clark, and Mr R. E. Artus have resigned as directors of PRUDENTIAL PENSIONS. Lord Carr of Hadley, a director of Prudential Corporation and chairman of Banque Nationale de Paris, and Mr Howard Hicks, chairman of IDC Group, have been appointed directors. Mr Desmond Reid continues as chairman.

Mr R. E. Jordan has been appointed deputy managing director of C. C. HIBBERT (MARINE SUPPLIES). He will succeed Mr F. W. Warde, the present managing director, who retires in January 1982. The company is a member of the Allied Breweries group.

Mr Keith Hanson has been elected president of the NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PAINTING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS (NPFDC). Mr Ronald Morgan is the new senior vice-president and Mr John Ferris is union vice-president. Mr Allick Whittle is honorary treasurer.

Mr R. L. Baucher, deputy managing director of Carron Company, has been appointed chairman of the VITREOUS ENAMEL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

Mr W. A. H. Collier has been appointed engineering director of WELLMAN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.

Mr Peter Dellar has been appointed executive chairman of ST. GEORGE'S LAUNDRY (WORCESTER) following the retirement of Mr. Frank Armstrong as chairman. Mr. Philip Dobson has become deputy chairman. Mr. Nigel Armstrong is now managing director with special responsibility for the group's various laundry operations, and Mr. Stephen H. Jones has joined the board.

Mr Keith Turner has joined the board of HARRIS CAPEL and LEONARD. He is managing director of Carless Solvents and chairman of Carless Petroleum and Torch Petroleum.

Mr Neil MacMahon has been appointed general manager (administration) of the LATHWAY BUILDING SOCIETY.

JARDINE GLANVILLE (SERVICES) has made the following appointments of executive directors: Mr C. P. Baker, chairman and chief executive; Mr D. K. Bawrow, property; Mr M. W. Bird, management (world wide); Mr B. A. Crowe, management (UK); Mr R. W. H. Lubbock, personnel; and Mr L. A. C. Taylor, secretary and financial.

Appointments to the main board of JARDINE GLANVILLE (UK) are Mr R. E. Richards, chairman; Mr M. W. Eve, chief executive; Mr M. B. Cooper, Mr P. J. Ford-Robinson, Mr D. J. Goodfield, Mr N. J. Lee, Mr P. M. Marcell, Mr T. Masters, Mr C. M. L. Paine, Mr B. N. Strong, and Mr J. W. Vickers.

Mr D. E. Church has been appointed chairman of H. J. ENTHOVEN AND SONS, a subsidiary of BIRNITON (UK).

INCHEAPE AND CO states that Mr D. R. Davies, a director and until recently chairman and managing director of Incheape Berhad in Singapore, will take up executive responsibilities in London on June 1.

Mr Ken Webb has become chairman of the MARKETING SOCIETY succeeding Mr Peter Mitchell.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES LAW CAP 22 AND IN THE MATTER OF ESSEX OVERSEAS PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Take notice that a petition for the winding-up of the above-named Company by the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands held at George Town Grand Cayman on the 28 April 1981 presented to the above court by Credit Suisse, a creditor of the above-named Company, and that the hearing of the said petition has been adjourned to be heard before the said court sitting at George Town, Grand Cayman, on the 27 May, 1981 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and that any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order on the said petition may appear at the time of the hearing in person or by his counsel for that purpose.

Take further notice that by an order dated 14 May, 1981 made by the Chief Justice of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands it was ordered that Mr Ian Anderson, Nigel Wright, Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, of the firm of Rawlings, Hunter, Butterfield and Co., Chartered Accountants, Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, be appointed Provisional Liquidator of the above-named Company with the following powers and duties:

1. To examine all books, papers, deeds, documents, etc., in the custody or power of any person relating to the company in any jurisdiction and to take such steps as he may deem fit to ascertain the assets, liabilities, and affairs of the company and any other person connected with the company.
2. To take such action as is required to intervene and become a party to any proceedings in any jurisdiction in which the company is a party.
3. To advertise the appointment of the Provisional Liquidator and his powers and duties and to require creditors of the company to send particulars of their debts and claims to the Provisional Liquidator. The advertisement to be in the Gazette and such other international publications as the Provisional Liquidator shall think fit.
4. To control and manage all the bank accounts and securities of the Company.
5. To have power to take copies of any books, documents, etc., examined under paragraph 1 hereof.

Pursuant to the said order, notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company are required on or before 20 June, 1981, being the date for that purpose fixed by the said Provisional Liquidator, to send their names and addresses to him on the part of their debts and claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors, if any, to the Provisional Liquidator at P.O. Box 255, West Wind Building, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Provisional Liquidator, are to prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be fixed by the said Provisional Liquidator in respect of the above-named Company should the relief sought by the petition be granted.

Dated the 23rd day of May, 1981.
IAN ANDERSON NIGEL WRIGHT,
Provisional Liquidator,
Essex Overseas
Petroleum Corporation.

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	12%	Guinness Mahon	12%
Allied Irish Bank	12%	Hambros Bank	12%
American Express Bk.	12%	Heritable & Gen. Trust	12%
Amro Bank	12%	Hill Samuel	12%
Henry Ansbacher	12%	C. Hoare & Co.	12%
AP Bank Ltd.	12%	Hongkong & Shanghai	12%
Arbuthnot Latham	12%	Keyser Ullmann	12%
Associates Cap. Corp.	12%	Knowles & Co. Ltd.	12%
Banco de Bilbao	12%	Langris Trust Ltd.	12%
BCCI	12%	Lloyds Bank	12%
Bank of Cyprus	12%	Mallinhal Limited	12%
Bank of N.S.W.	12%	Edward Manson & Co.	12%
Banque Belge Ltd.	12%	Midland Bank	12%
Banque du Rhone et de la Tamise S.A.	12%	Samuel Montagu	12%
Bardays Bank	12%	National Westminster	12%
Beneficial Trust Ltd.	12%	Norwich General Trust	12%
Bremar Holdings Ltd.	12%	P. S. Refson & Co.	12%
Bristol & West Invests.	12%	Ryl. Bk. Canada (Ldn.)	12%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	12%	Slavenburg's Bank	12%
Brown Shipley	12%	E. S. Schwab	12%
Canada Perm. Trust	12%	Standard Chartered	12%
Cargor Ltd.	12%	Trade Dev. Bank	12%
Cedar Holdings	12%	Trustee Savings Bank	12%
Charterhouse Japnet	12%	TCB Ltd.	12%
Chaularions	12%	United Bank of Kuwait	12%
C. E. Coates	12%	Whiteaway Ltd.	12%
Consolidated Credits	12%	Williams & Glyn's	12%
Co-operative Bank	12%	Wintrust Secs. Ltd.	12%
Cyprus Popular Bk.	12%	Yorkshire Bank	12%
Duncan Lawrie	12%	Members of the Accepting House Committee	12%
Eagil Trust	12%	3-day deposits 9%, 1-month 9½%, 3-month 10%, 6-month 10½%, 12-month 11½%	12%
E. T. Trust Limited	12%	7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 9%, up to £50,000 9½%, and over £50,000 10%	12%
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	14½%	Call deposits £1,000 and over 9½%	12%
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	14½%	Demand deposits 9½%	12%
Robert Fraser	12%	21-day deposits over £10,000 10½%	12%
Antony Gibbs	12%		
Greyhound Guaranty	12%		
Grindlays Bank	12%		

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

1980-81	Company	Last price	Gross yield	P/E	Fully paid
High	Low				
20	30	Arnprior	72	4.7	6.4
21	21	Armstrong and Rhodes	50	1.4	20.8
200	200	Bardon Hall	200	9.7	4.9
104	104	Deborah Services	104	5.5	5.1
126	126	Frank Hensell	103	6.4	3.2
110	110	Frederick Parker	58	1.7	25.7
110	110	George Blair	64	3.1	4.8
128	128	James Burrough	128	7.9	6.2
324	324	Robert Jenkins	320	31.3	8.8
55	55	Scrivens "A"	55	5.3	4.0
224	224	Torday	204	15.1	7.4
23	23	Townhill Ord.	13½	—	—
50	50	Twinhook 15% ULS	72	15.0	20.0
58	58	Unilever	44	5.7	5.6
103	103	Walter Alexander	101	4.7	5.6
263	263	W. S. Yeates	255	13.1	5.1

The Scottish Mortgage and Trust PLC

The Company is a member of The Association of Investment Trust Companies.

Directors
T. R. Macgregor, Chairman
Sir James Blair-Cunningham
D. F. McCurrah
H. R. MacLeod
J. G. C. White
Sir Michael Young-Herries

Total net assets at market value	£158,079,059	£108,249,375
Ordinary stock units:		
Asset value	205.7p	143.5p
Earnings	5.44p	5.35p
Dividend	5.30p	5.20p
Geographical Distribution of Investments	%	%
Equities: United Kingdom	40.2	50.1
United States	39.5	32.8
Japan and S.E. Asia	13.9	5.4
Other countries	5.9	7.1
Total equities	99.5	95.4
Fixed interest stocks	0.1	3.2
Deposits and net current assets	0.4	1.4
	100.0	100.0

Excerpts from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. T. R. Macgregor.

● The asset value per share rose by 43% to a record level of 205.7p attributable primarily to the substantial rise in the price of oil and oil-related shares, particularly in the United States. Other contributing factors were the movement of funds from fixed interest investments into equities, and the borrowing of £5 million to extend equity investment and add an element of additional gearing

Scott Bader wins employee tax case

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

SCOTT BADER, the synthetic manufacturer, has won a tax case over the cost of sending a senior employee to work with a French subsidiary.

The Court of Appeal ruled that the expenditure had been incurred wholly and exclusively for the purposes of the company's trade, within the meaning of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970. The expenditure was therefore deductible from the company's profits for corporation tax purposes.

The court dismissed an appeal by the Inland Revenue against a finding of tax commissioners in the company's favour.

Lord Justice Waller said that Scott Bader had paid £16,354

for its employee's salary and expenses while in France. The Revenue contended that the money had been spent for the purposes of the subsidiary, as well as those of Scott Bader itself, and was therefore not deductible for tax purposes.

The judge said that although the inevitable result of sending the employee to the foreign subsidiary would be to improve the subsidiary's running and financial position, it did not follow that that was Scott Bader's real purpose.

There was strong evidence that the real purpose had been to further Scott Bader's business in Europe, which was supported by the supply of the French subsidiary's products.

Guide to 70 steam railway centres issued

A FREE GUIDE to Britain's 70 privately run steam railways and centres has been produced by the Association of Railway Preservation Societies in conjunction with BP Oil.

It is intended both for railway enthusiasts and for families planning a day out. In England and Wales a steam railway or museum is always less than 50 miles away, BP Oil says. "Steam-ups," opening times and phone numbers are listed.

1981 Steam Train Guide, ARPS, Sheringham Station, Norfolk NR36 5RA. Send SAE.

Inquiry ordered into coal tip scheme

THE Department of Environment has ordered a public inquiry into a plan to reclaim 40,000 tonnes of coal from an old tip in South Yorkshire, after opposition from local and county councillors.

B. and H. Fuels, a Chesterfield-based company, wants to extract the coal from a tip near Cortonwood colliery between Brampton Bierlow and Wombwell.

GLC may halt nuclear defence

THE Greater London Council is set to refuse to spend any more time or money on civil defence to protect the capital against a nuclear attack. The Government may have to appoint commissioners to do the job.

The new leaders at County Hall are to ask the council to approve the plan to drop the statutory functions which involve spending £750,000 a year by government order on improving the capital's defences against nuclear attack.

Cal for delay on telecoms

Sir George Jefferson, chairman of British Telecom, called on the Government yesterday to extend its consultation period before it took any decisions on opening the telecommunications network to private competition.

The Government plans to make a decision in July, and Sir George told a conference of the Telecommunications Users' Association in London: "This is simply not long enough to reach fully thought-out conclusions about the future of telecommunications in this country."

BANKS, DISCOUNT (502)

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Albion Discount (511) 245 (2015)		Barclays Bank (100) 114 5 6	
Albion Discount (511) 245 (2015)		Barclays Bank (100) 114 5 6	
Albion Discount (511) 245 (2015)		Barclays Bank (100) 114 5 6	
Albion Discount (511) 245 (2015)		Barclays Bank (100) 114 5 6	
Albion Discount (511) 245 (2015)		Barclays Bank (100) 114 5 6	
Albion Discount (511) 245 (2015)		Barclays Bank (100) 114 5 6	
Albion Discount (511) 245 (2015)		Barclays Bank (100) 114 5 6	
Albion Discount (511) 245 (2015)		Barclays Bank (100) 114 5 6	
Albion Discount (511) 245 (2015)		Barclays Bank (100) 114 5 6	
Albion Discount (511) 245 (2015)		Barclays Bank (100) 114 5 6	

BREWERIES (349)

Company	Rate	Company	Rate
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	

COMMERCIAL (7,086)

Company	Rate	Company	Rate
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	

Stock Exchange dealings

The list below, restricted mainly to equities and convertible stocks, has been taken from the official Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission. It shows prices at which business was done in the 24 hours up to 3.30 pm on Thursday, and settled through the Stock Exchange Clearing System.

The prices are not in order of quotation, but in ascending order which denotes the day's highest and lowest selling prices.

For those cases in which no business was recorded in Thursday's Official List, the latest recorded business during the previous four business days is given with relevant dates appended. The number of bargains done is given in each section in a column against the respective sub-headings. Unless otherwise indicated the shares are 250 fully-paid.

Bargains at special prices. A Bargains done with a non-member of the Stock Exchange. B Bargains done previous day. SA-Sale; SB-Sale; SC-Sale; SD-Sale; SE-Sale; SF-Sale; SG-Sale; SH-Sale; SI-Sale; SJ-Sale; SK-Sale; SL-Sale; SM-Sale; SN-Sale; SO-Sale; SP-Sale; SQ-Sale; SR-Sale; SS-Sale; ST-Sale; SU-Sale; SV-Sale; SW-Sale; SX-Sale; SY-Sale; SZ-Sale.

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

DAVIS (GUTHRIE) HIGGS 70

FINANCIAL TIMES SATURDAY MAY 23 1981

Company	Rate	Company	Rate
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	
Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6		Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6	

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Adams & Co. (100) 114 5 6

Figure 1

[illegible]

OIL AND GAS—Continued

[illegible][illegible]

Prod. & Gen. Inv.	69	13
Govt. & Metr. 'A'	232	910
Int. Mkt. Prg. M. Bd	514	—

[illegible]

Dabbanians	P	8	P.O. D&H	13	Bernard Gil
Dottier's	F	7	Phone	16	W.C. Gil
Dubois	F	7	" "	19	GCA
Eagle Star	F	22	" "	20	Primer
E.M.P.	F	22	Cop. Ord.	21	Primer
Gen. Accident	F	22	Rest. Ind.	25	Ultramar
Gen. Electric	F	64	Sears	5	" "
Glen	F	28	" "	5	" "
Grand Mill	F	13	Town EMH	13	Miles
I.S.U.-W.A.	F	13	Trust Houses	13	Chatter Com
Jones	F	32	" "	13	Lins. Gold
K.N.K.	F	26	Turner & Newall	15	" "
Hawker Side	F	25	Unilever	50	Rite L. Zon

A selection of Options traded is given on the London Stock Exchange Report page.

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 22

This service is available to every Company dealt in on Stock Exchanges throughout the United Kingdom for a fee of £500 per annum for each security.

MAN OF THE WEEK

Defender of the Realm

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

PICK UP any newspaper cuttings about Mr. John Nott, the Defence Secretary, and you will invariably find him described as "lightweight."

"Mr. Nott is a very able man who undoubtedly has the ear of the Prime Minister, but it is questionable whether he has the weight to become Chancellor of the Exchequer." That sort of thing.

Such a reputation must have come about partly because Mr. Nott is very witty—it is possible in the Conservative Party to be too witty for one's own good, as Mr. Norman St. John-Stevas discovered—and partly from malice. "It's because I am a lightweight," says Mr. Nott engagingly. "He says that," says a fellow member of the Cabinet, "because he is a lightweight." The present Cabinet is not exactly a band of brothers.

Mr. Nott has another engaging habit of frequently losing his temper—and then apologising. He does not much like the word "lightweight" though this week he concentrated his abuse on the Daily Telegraph for printing what he called "pure invention" about proposed cuts in the Royal Navy.


 John Nott
Disguised as a lightweight?

Mr. Nott came out of the defence debate rather well, on substance as well as style. The first he heard of the trouble in his Department was when he read in the newspapers last Saturday morning that Mr. Keith Speed, the Navy Minister, had made a speech protesting about reductions in Britain's seapower. The storm blew for about three days. By Monday night Mr. Speed was sacked. By Wednesday Mr. Nott had given his second impressive House of Commons performance of the week.

Mr. Speed had referred to Admiral Gorshkov, the man who has built up the Soviet Navy over the years following the principles of British seapower in the nineteenth century. Mr. Nott dismissed Gorshkov—and therefore by implication Mr. Speed—as someone who "has always managed to keep the Navy in the news through skilled publicity."

What was remarkable to a sceptical observer, however, was the confidence with which Mr. Nott is going about his task of conducting the latest defence review. "I see my task as a simple one," he said, "and no amount of special pleading from one part of our defence establishment or another will divert me from it. It is to form a defence view—not a single Service view—of how we can conduct our tasks within the Alliance in the defence of freedom and democracy."

Hardly anyone else has achieved that satisfactorily in recent years, and certainly not Mr. Francis Pym whom Mr. Nott replaced as Defence Secretary last January. Mr. Nott thinks that Mr. Denis Healey made a pretty good attempt in the 1960s.

Questioned about his statement afterwards, Mr. Nott said that perhaps "simple" was the wrong word. What he meant was that the task was clear. He was slightly more modest about his chances of bringing it off by July.

His starting point is to say to the Defence Ministry: If this is the money available, what are the defence priorities and operational requirements for the early 1990s? Obviously the objective question had not been understood all the way down the line, as Mr. Speed's outburst showed. Now perhaps it has.

There are those who say that all Mr. Nott wants is first to please the Prime Minister and second to please the Tory backbenchers. He has already achieved the first. Mrs. Thatcher's face displayed a look of rapture while Mr. Nott was speaking. Personally, I think that the use of the term lightweight could now be suspended.

Schmidt content with U.S. attitude to arms control

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

CHANCELLOR Helmut Schmidt of West Germany declared himself "deeply satisfied" after three days of talks with President Ronald Reagan about the broad thrust of U.S. policy, and in particular about Washington's determination to start early arms control negotiations with the Kremlin.

He received no precise commitment from the U.S. on advancing nuclear missile negotiations earlier than autumn 1981 which Washington had already promised.

But Herr Schmidt said: "I can now tell our French friends and the German people from the mouth of the U.S. President that the U.S. Administration will not rest from negotiations until it gets an arms control accord with the Soviet Union."

He told journalists after talks at the White House that at his meeting with President Francois Mitterrand of France tomorrow he would "act as a messenger

from President Reagan." He refused to divulge the message but it is assumed to be the substance of the apparently successful Reagan-Schmidt talks.

Herr Schmidt said he was reassured that Mr. Reagan was serious about negotiating mutual reductions of medium-range missiles in Europe by both super-powers. He was also convinced that the U.S. planned to use a range of economic tools to counter inflation and would not rely solely on monetary policy and high interest rates which could fuel a general recession.

The joint communique was vague on both points, particularly on economic policy which included only a reference to close co-ordination between the Soviet Union and the U.S.

However, Herr Schmidt spelled out in blunt detail why West Germany and Europe pressed Washington on these issues: "Public opinion in most

European countries right now expects every possible step to be taken to stop the uncontrolled growth of nuclear weaponry."

The Soviet Union with its SS-20 missiles had upset the military balance, he said. This had to be countered in two ways by Nato: missile modernisation and arms reduction talks, pursued parallel.

Our Moscow correspondent reports: Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev yesterday repeated his condemnation of the plan to modernise Nato's nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

He told a Communist Party meeting in Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia, that Russia could if necessary find "impressive means" to safeguard its interests. If it did, "Nato planners should not complain."

Brezhnev seeks Middle East talks, Page 2

U.S. banks raise prime rate to 20 1/2%

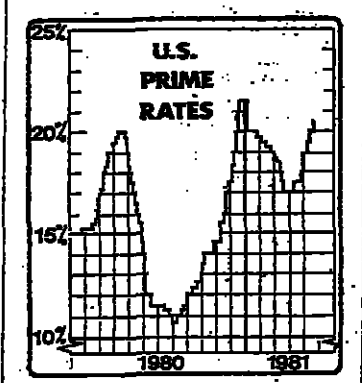
By David Lucelles in New York

LEADING U.S. banks yesterday added a further half percentage point to their prime rates, pushing them up to 20 1/2 per cent. The move had been widely expected following the strength of U.S. interest rates in the money markets most of this week.

The increase in the prime rate came in spite of a slowing in the rate of rise of consumer prices in the U.S. for the second successive month due to decelerating energy and food costs. Consumer prices increased by 0.4 per cent in April—the lowest monthly increase, apart from a statistical quirk last July, since February 1978.

Chase Manhattan led the way in raising its prime rate and was quickly followed by Citibank, Manufacturers Hanover and several other large banks. The move leaves the prime only 1 per cent point short of the 21 1/2 per cent record set last December.

The banks all blamed the increase on their higher funding costs in the money markets. Demand for bank loans also continues to be strong.



Continued from Page 1

Paisley

Northern Ireland's local councils have virtually no power other than to deal with recreation, street cleaning and cemeteries.

The election was not fought on any of these issues. From the start it was a head count of party support and an indication of opinions on broader issues, such as the Anglo-Irish talks and the IRA hunger strike. Among personalities to appear on the council scene was Mr. Gerry Fitt, former leader of the SDLP and now MP for Belfast West at Westminster. He lost the seat on Belfast City Council that he has held for 23 years, and said his defeat was largely due to his stand against the hunger strikers.

Weather

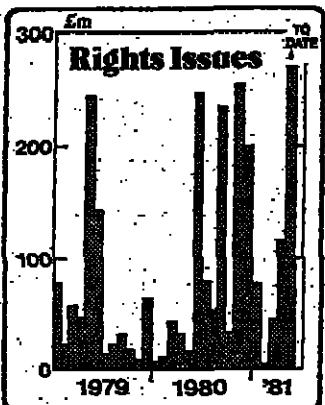
UK TODAY
RAIN at first giving way to sunny intervals. Generally rather cool.
London, S.E., E., N.W. England Rain early, sunny intervals and showers. Max. 15C (59F).
S.W. England, Wales, W. Midlands, Channel Is. Showers occasionally heavy, some sunny intervals. Max. 14C (57F).
S., N.W. Scotland, N. Ireland Showers or longer outbreaks of rain. Max. 13C (55F).
N.E. England, rest of Scotland Cloudy rain at times, brighter later. Max. 12C (54F).
Outlook: continuing changeable and rather cool.

WORLDWIDE			
	Y'day	Today	Y'day
Ajaccio	21	20	19
Algiers	22	21	20
Amman	23	22	21
Athens	23	22	21
Bahia	22	21	20
Batavia	22	21	20
Beirut	22	21	20
Bombay	22	21	20
Buenos Aires	22	21	20
Calcutta	22	21	20
Cairo	22	21	20
Canton	22	21	20
Cebu	22	21	20
Colon	22	21	20
Hankow	22	21	20
Hong Kong	22	21	20
Kobe	22	21	20
London	22	21	20
Lyons	22	21	20
Manila	22	21	20
Medan	22	21	20
Montevideo	22	21	20
Mumbai	22	21	20
Nairobi	22	21	20
Rangoon	22	21	20
San Francisco	22	21	20
Singapore	22	21	20
Sourabaya	22	21	20
Taipei	22	21	20
Tokyo	22	21	20
Yokohama	22	21	20

THE LEX COLUMN

GRE follows down the Royal road

Index fell 1.2 to 543.4



The equity market got the big rights issue yesterday that it had been waiting for all week, while the gilt-edged market was again spared a new issue of stock. But the Government Broker seems to be feeding out plenty of unofficial taps, mostly odds and ends transferred from the portfolio of the National Debt Commissioners, that Aladdin's cave of old paper. This helps to explain both why the authorities seem relatively relaxed about funding and why there is so little money about.

GRE

The widely-rumoured Guardian Royal Exchange rights issue, which failed to turn up on Wednesday or Thursday, finally arrived on the scene yesterday morning to a decidedly lukewarm welcome. Already down 20p during the first four days of the week, the share price dropped another 12p to 290p, and the sector index, relatively weak against the All-Share, this year, dropped a further 1 1/2 per cent. It is not long since the sector had to absorb £120m of rights paper from Royal last December, and the shadow of the North American underwriting downturn hangs heavily over most composite insurance share prices.

The stated reasons for the issue bear some distinct similarities to those given by Royal. There are the same hints that the extra resources will be needed to support acquisitions in the U.S. and in other parts of the world. At the same time GRE takes care not to give the impression that it is following Royal's broad push for a bigger market share, preferring to talk about selecting particularly attractive classes of business and geographical areas.

And GRE's recent acquisitions of two mid-Western insurance companies in the U.S. gives its plans a degree of credibility which has not been entirely true of Royal. That company has failed so far to do anything very obvious with its extra money and has generated a certain amount of impatience amongst investors as a result. At any rate, GRE will be under some pressure to show quite soon that it is not just jiding £78m under the bed.

At this stage, shareholders are being told nothing new about dividends or profits, except that the elusive Canadian recovery is still slipping behind schedule, though an underwriting profit was achieved in the U.S. in the first quarter. GRE's relatively low solvency margin—at 57 per cent, before the

issue—is scarcely a reason for calling on shareholders, because many of the UK composites now look overcapitalised (the issue adds 10 points for GRE). It only makes sense if there are important developments up GRE's sleeve.

Interest rates

The pull of international interest rates remains the principal factor depressing the sterling financial markets, naturally enough, the longer U.S. rates stay high the more fears grow that UK rates will have to follow.

The markets worry party because in the unstable economies of the 1980s it is not in the nature of interest rates to be steady for long. Left to themselves, rates will not stay at 12 1/2 per cent for ever, and if they are not going down there is only one other way for them to go.

The worries are increased by the slightly unpleasant taste left by recent money supply figures, which although utterly unreliable as a result of the civil servants' strike still drop the odd uncomfortable hint. The level of bank lending is rather too high; industry may not be borrowing much (not yet, at least—it may soon start re-stocking), but the consumer certainly seems to be.

The external and foreign currency items in the money supply picture, combined with the fact that retail sales are so much more buoyant than output, suggest that the current account surplus, an unknown quantity because of the dispute, is shrinking and could have disappeared.

Then there is inflation. The April drop in the 12-month rate of growth of the retail price

index was not too bad, but it is getting difficult to see how much more inflation will fall in the near future. On the possibly generous view that the RPI rises by 1 per cent a month for the next four months, the 12-month rate will only have fallen to 11 per cent by August. The slippage of the exchange rate is already feeding through to wholesale prices.

There are plenty of compensations, though: high U.S. interest rates are weakening commodity prices, as well as sterling. The UK wage round has settled down at 10 per cent, and the gilt-edged market is already discounting unpleasant events. When the civil service strike ends short rates will certainly rise as tax is paid, but that is likely to be good for starting a new even help the gilt-edged market to get over its worries: higher short rates would be a sign of fiscal health. The most dangerous reassuring argument is that the Government would find it politically impossible to raise M.L.R. Maybe it would, but these days governments have to do politically impossible things before breakfast.

THE SAVOY

The Savoy Hotel defence is mostly irrelevant. It is not much of an argument for the Board to point out that the share price of the loss-making company has outperformed the All-Share Index—it has largely done so because of the possibility of a takeover bid. In any case the comparison fails to take account of the higher income offered by the All-Share. There is much vague talk of "excellence" and "quality" but there are no figures for occupancy levels which might indicate the degree of appeal the group holds for its customers. The fact that the THF offer for the "A" shares is well below the value of the "B" shares, largely because so much extra is being offered to "B" shareholders, is a warning to the directors and their associates.

The Savoy Board makes no promise that this year's results will show any improvement on the £1.8m loss in 1980 and it mentions no special response to the group's problems except the already disclosed proposal to sell part of the Savoy Hotel. The key point in the document, perhaps, is that the directors will keep an "open mind" on approaches from parties more acceptable than TEF. Whether this might mean a rival bid, or a deal (a hotel purchase, perhaps) aimed at consolidating Board control still further is left open to question.

Coal liquefaction plant backed

BY MARTIN DICKSON, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL COAL BOARD plans to build the UK's first coal liquefaction plant have received vital although heavily qualified Government backing. The Department of Energy said it would contribute £5m towards the capital costs of the project, as long as the NCB could provide the remaining £30m with help from the private sector.

The NCB wants to build a 25-tonne-a-day pilot plant at Point of Ayr, North Wales, to test two methods of converting coal to liquid fuels. These have been developed by the board's scientists. The capital costs are put at £35m and a further £20m will be needed to run the project for three years.

The NCB said last night it was "naturally pleased" at the Government's decision. It is clearly relieved that, after a year of deliberation, the

Government has decided to give the scheme the support essential if it is to attract other backers. But it will be disappointed if the Government is putting in only £5m, 14 per cent of the capital costs.

Mr. John Moore, a junior Minister at the Department of Energy, said yesterday that the Government still had doubts about the commercial viability of the NCB technology.

He told the Commons that, if it was to be developed commercially, the early support of private industry was essential. The Government would back Point of Ayr, provided the NCB came up with the balance of capital funding, some of it from the private sector.

The most likely industrial backer is British Petroleum, which has been involved in Point of Ayr feasibility studies. There has been speculation that Phillips Petroleum might be

interested. The NCB is also confident of substantial support from the EEC.

Mr. Moore said liquefaction was unlikely to become economical in the UK until well into the next century. It might become commercially attractive in major coal producing countries such as Australia and the U.S. in the 1990s.

The indications were that, with a full commitment to energy conservation and oil substitution measures, the UK ought to be able to maintain self-sufficiency in transport fuels and chemical feedstocks "well into the next century."

He said West Germany and the U.S. had several years lead over the UK in developing larger coal liquefaction plants. The NCB processes did however have some significant potential advantages over their rivals on grounds of thermal efficiency and capital cost.

Schmidt-Mitterrand

Continued from Page 1

visit to Paris immediately aroused suggestions that he might be coming to discuss realignments within the EMS.

In the course of yesterday's authorities stepped in to re-emphasise the Government's commitment to maintain the present parity of the franc.

The seven-day Treasury bill discount rate, the main interest indicator, was pushed up to a record of 22 per cent, having reached 18 per cent only last week.

This was followed by an increase in the call-money rate from 16 per cent to 18 per cent, forcing several banks, faced with much higher re-financing costs, to fall in line and push their own base rates up to 17 per cent.

To reinforce these moves the Bank of France once again intervened heavily in the foreign exchange markets. Dealers estimated that it might have sold between DM 500m and DM 600m during the day, after an estimated expenditure of between \$55m to \$65m since the crisis began.

The problem the Government now faces is that this rise of interest rates, combined with the new foreign exchange measures, could throw its economic policy off course before it has even got under way.

Kevin Done in Frankfurt writes: The D-Mark fluctuated sharply against the U.S. dollar in nervous, often hectic trading

in Frankfurt yesterday, sharpening the policy dilemmas confronting the West German monetary authorities.

While the D-Mark weakened further against the U.S. currency, it was again strong in the EMS.

Against the U.S. currency, however, the D-Mark slumped further and was fixed officially in Frankfurt at DM 2.3160, its worst performance since September 1977.

Officially the Bundesbank, the West German Central Bank, took no action to intervene. By the end of trading the German currency had recovered slightly from its lowest point to close in Frankfurt at DM 2.3135/55.

Tories add threat to Lloyd's Bill

BY JOHN MOORE

LOYD'S PRIVATE Parliamentary Bill for improving self-regulation within its insurance market faces more opposition at the third reading stage in the House of Commons.

A group of about 14 Conservative MPs are concerned that the industry's protection of Lloyd's officers from legal suits for damages has been left in the main body of the Bill after being reviewed by a Commons committee.

There is a severe risk that the Bill may not pass the third reading and may be talked out by Conservative MPs during a three-hour debate.

For Lloyd's the possible opposition represents a second blow to its Bill, its first major proposed legislative change in more than 100 years. On Thursday the Commons committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Michael Mearns,

Labour MP for Oldham West, asked Lloyd's to amend its Bill to include a provision for complete divestment of brokers' shareholding links with underwriters.

This request could lead to Lloyd's biggest upheaval in its 300-year history. Publicly quoted Lloyd's brokers shares fell yesterday on the news.

Before the second reading debate Conservative MPs had forced Lloyd's to remove the immunity provision from the main body of the Bill on the grounds that no other body enjoys such protection.

Under the proposed legislation a new Lloyd's council would have the power to create regulations by by-law. At the suggestion of the Conservative MPs Lloyd's agreed to implement any immunity provision by by-law, which would need

additional Parliamentary approval.

However, Mr. Stanley Clinton-Davis, opposition spokesman during the second reading debate, said that any immunity should not be introduced by by-law as subordinate legislation. It should be introduced with the Bill as primary legislation.

On the basis of his arguments, Lloyd's inserted the immunity provision, amended slightly, into the main body of the Bill at the start of the committee hearings.

The committee decided that it is in the public interest that the immunities should be dealt with by primary legislation. It is this decision which has angered the group of Conservative MPs.

Lloyd's got a shock, Page 14

THE FINTEL COMPANY newsbase

Oh yes, you'll remember it well!

It was in the FT last month. No, the month before. That company's gone bust. No, their earnings soared. Oh yes, now I remember it well. A foreign contract's signed. No, they've lost the rights.

The chairman has resigned. No, he's begun a proxy fight. Can I trust your memory? I think I read their profits fell. An item in last week's FT? I'm not sure I remember that well...

You need Newsbase. It recalls for you what you need from the Financial Times of last week, last month, even last year. Finance and business, companies and results, products and technology, markets and marketing, bids and deals, contracts and international trade, people and appointments and of course, editorial mentions and surveys—50,000 items and 30,000 companies a year. Get it on your own office terminal.

Newsbase is the fast, economic, cost-effective, highly professional way for you to trace all company and business information covered in the Financial Times at the touch of a button.

fintel

the electronic publishing subsidiary of The Financial Times
Newsbase is another product of INTELLIGENCE—a unique combination of technical know-how, hard work and intelligence.

Fintel Limited

102/108 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1M 5SA

Tell me more about Newsbase, the FT memory.

Name _____

Position _____

Company _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____